Put your feet up and read all about the 'Choirs in the Castle' on page 20.

Bridgend & Porthcawl GEM

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www.bridgend-today.co.uk www.porthcawl-today.co.uk THURSDAY, JUNE 18TH, 2009

WHO'S SARI NOW?

LEFT:
These three girls were looking resplendent last Saturday at Maes-yr-Haul Primary School's summer fete.

In case you hadn't guessed, there was an Indian theme to the day, with expert advice on how to wear a sari, and Indian food aplenty.

There was also the sight of a group of parents and teachers doing their own Bollywood dance!

PHOTOGRAPH by MANDY THOMAS

(See page 9 for more pictures).

Top home carer award for Bridgend mum Sonya

BRIDGEND mum Sonya O'Connell scooped the top Home Care Worker Award (Wales).

Mother of two Sonya was nominated by her fellow care workers in Bridgend County Borough Council's BridgeStart team for the CERETAS national home care award.

They recognise the significant role home care workers play in providing high-quality standards of care for people who live in their own homes.

Presented by television personality Ruby Wax, the awards pay tribute to individuals who have demonstrated "outstanding excellence" within their field of work.

Sonya said: "I was absolutely overwhelmed to be nominated in the first place, so to win is just the icing on the cake! I am so grateful to my colleagues for thinking to put my name forward.

"The job really is a team effort and this honour is for everyone I work with.

"The evening was fantastic - I have never attended an event like it before. There was a wonderful atmosphere among the nominees, and it just goes to show how positive the people who work in this area are."

RIGHT:
Sonya is presented with her award by television personality Ruby Wax and Dave Currie, sales director of eziTracker, who sponsored the Wales award.

Residents vow to oppose Rest Bay camper van plan

MORE than 100 residents of the Rest Bay area of Porthcawl attended a public meeting at The Rest to discuss proposals to create a camper van site in the area.

...And there was overwhelming opposition to the plan put forward by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC).

It is due to be discussed at the cabinet meeting on July 14, although Coun Gerald Davies said he will ask the scrutiny committee to look at it in advance.

Officers are recommending that Rest Bay be chosen to house a site for camper vans. They argue that the site has advantages over the old Sandy Bay caravan park, where the camper vans used to stay.

But Porthcawl Civic Trust opposes the scheme and secretary Caroline Vaughan warned that the council was testing the water.

She said: "We have to make them realise that the water will be very hot indeed if they choose to put their toes into it.

"The Rest Bay car park, which is where they want this site to go, is located within sight of the conservation area and it makes a mockery of the protection of that land if this development is permitted."

The meeting felt that Sandy Bay was more suitable as it is close to facilities and shops and it was argued that camper van owners would not want to park at Rest Bay, as it is too far out of town.

Residents have set up an action group and their own website and it was agreed that individual residents should write letters of objection to the council.

No decision about this scheme has yet been taken and no planning application has been lodged. Porthcawl Town Council's attempts to discuss the proposal degenerated into farce, after a number of councillors withdrew because of fears that they would be unable to vote when it comes up for planning consent.

This left too few councillors to form a quorum and the matter could not be discussed.

Coun Gerald Davies had put the matter on the agenda, and he was still extremely disappointed when he spoke to The GEM. He said: "I really think that this is a crazy situation.

"Councillors are given advice, with the best intention, that if they adopt a pre-determined position, they cannot vote on a subsequent planning application.

"However, they could stay in the room and not take part in the discussion if they are worried about this.

"I think some of the councillors left the room through inexperience, but I don't understand why the experienced ones walked out."

He added: "This is clearly an important issue, and one which the town council should have discussed."

Five escape after dawn house blaze in Brackla

FIVE people, including a child, escaped from a house blaze at Teilos Drive, Brackla, at 6.06am on June 10.

Two fire engines attended from Bridgend Fire Station and crews used a hose reel jet, two sets of breathing apparatus and a positive pressure ventilation fan to extinguish the blaze.

A Fire Service spokeswoman said: "Firefighters were at the scene for approximately one hour. Five people escaped from the house (two male adults, two female adults and one male child).

"One adult was suffering from smoke inhalation and another adult suffered from cuts to the upper body while trying to escape from the property via a broken glass window.

"Both casualties received initial first aid treatment from fire crews and were taken to hospital by ambulance. The cause of the fire was identified as an unattended candle.

"However, the smoke alarm in the house was defective and did not alert the occupants."

Group manager Dick Pearson said: "We cannot emphasise enough the importance of checking your smoke alarms regularly and replacing them if they are defective. This incident could have been much worse had the fire gone unnoticed for any longer.

"One of the residents panicked and attempted to smash through the window to escape, severely cutting her arms and hands."

South Wales Fire and Rescue Service will fit free smoke alarms and give advice on fire safety at home. Telephone 0800 169 1234.

Alliance is back – in opposition

THE new Rainbow Alliance of Liberal Democrats and Conservatives, plus one independent, is likely to be declared the official opposition on Bridgend County Borough Council.

The two parties announced last week that they had reformed the alliance, which used to run the council up until last May's elections.

Bringing together the two parties, plus independent Peter Evans, gives the new group 14 members – led by Lib Dem Cheryl Green – compared to the 10 in the Annibynwyr group led by Jeff Tildesley.

This group was declared the official opposition just before the annual meeting in May, following defections from the Liberal Democrat group, which reduced them to seven members. The Conservatives had six.

Coun Tildesley revealed there was a meeting of all group leaders last week, including Coun Bob Burns who represented his new Independent Democrats group, which has three members, all former Lib Dems.

He said that chief executive Jo Farrar indicated that the Rainbow Alliance had now reformed and that it would become the opposition.

He said that his own Annibynwyr group would be discussing these changes at their meeting this week.

Bridgend honours links with Forces

A SPECIAL flag will be flown in Bridgend to honour servicemen and women, ahead of the UK's first Armed Forces Day on Saturday, June 27.

The flag will be raised outside the Civic Offices in Angel Street in a formal ceremony, at 10.30am on Monday, June 22, and will fly each day up to and including Armed Forces Day.

The flag-raising ceremony will be attended by the new Mayor of Bridgend county borough, Coun Jeff Tildesley and his chaplain, members of the cabinet and the assistant chief executive.

Representatives of the Bridgend and County Borough Veterans Association, the Royal British Legion, and the Royal Welsh Regiment, who last year were awarded the Freedom of the county borough, have also been invited to the event.

Coun Mel Nott, Leader of Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC), said: "This first British Armed Forces Day is an opportunity to show our appreciation for the contribution made by all those who serve or have served in Her Majesty's Armed Forces.

"I am delighted that BCBC has been given the chance to honour our former and current service people and their families by flying this special flag.

"We all know that this borough has a long and proud association with the armed forces, and I hope this very visible display will remind our whole community of the important role they play."

The flag raising will support a large parade, organised by the Bridgend and County Borough Veterans Association, which takes place in Bridgend town centre on Armed Forces Day itself.

It will start at 10.30am at Bridgend Recreation Centre and will reach the town centre war memorial at approximately 11am, where there will be a short celebratory tribute to the armed forces.

Later, Bridgend Recreation Centre will host a performance of *Lili,* which tells the story of Lili Marlene.

The show, which is also being performed at Porthcawl's Grand Pavilion on June 19-20, will donate its profits to local veterans associations.

Association chair Coun Major Wayne Morgan, who is also chair of the Bridgend Branch Royal British Legion, and who has organised the event, said:

"Armed Forces Week 2009 gives Bridgend county borough a unique opportunity to show the nation its positive support and huge regard for its veteran community.

"History shows this area played a significant, albeit a somewhat covert, role during World War II with the Island Farm prisoner of war camp and the largest armaments factory in Europe being sited here in Bridgend.

"More recently, we gave the Freedom of the borough to the Royal Welsh Regiment.

"The people of the borough have a long tradition and association with our armed forces and veterans, of which they can be immensely proud.

"Long may this continue and prosper through the Royal British Legion and the Bridgend & County Borough Veterans Association," Coun Morgan added.

WOOING BACK ANGRY MAJORITY WHO COULD NOT BE BOTHERED TO VOTE...

WHAT do I make of the European election results? It was certainly a bad night for us in the Labour party.

We were outvoted in Bridgend and came second across the whole of Wales. More of that later.

The first thing that strikes me is that most people stayed at home (only 30 per cent voted in Bridgend).

I suspect that many of them were Labour voters who were too angry to vote, but who wouldn't vote for anybody else.

The trick for us will be to make sure they come out in future elections.

For the Conservatives, they came top of the poll in Wales for the first time since 1859.

That said, though, they only got 21 per cent of the vote, well below the levels they were getting in the 1980s.

For Plaid Cymru, they will be disappointed. Nationalist parties overtook Labour in Scotland and even in Cornwall.

They have become an establishment party over the last ten years and so don't benefit from a protest vote in the way that they used to.

The Lib Dems went nowhere, and they consistently fail to do very much in European elections. Again, they came fifth in Wales.

UKIP, of course, had a member elected in Wales. There's no doubt that many Labour voters saw UKIP as a pain-free protest vote.

UKIP politicians tend to be an amiable bunch, but they seem to think that Britain should go back to where it was around about 1962. Their vote increased slightly, but they won a seat because the top three parties did relatively badly

Then we have the BNP. They only polled five per cent of the vote in Wales, although that was up on last time around. They didn't do as well as they were telling people that they would.

It's disturbing that a party obsessed with people's skin pigment colour should have two seats in Europe – but they're still a small party and the vast majority of people wouldn't touch them with a barge pole.

Things will be difficult for us in Labour and we have suffered most from the expenses issue.

We need to do more to reach out to those people who stayed at home and we need some direction in terms of what we plan to do.

We have given the impression at UK level over the past few weeks that we're running around in circles and that must stop.

We also have to show some unity as a party. Why anybody would think that resigning from the cabinet just before an election would be anything less than self-indulgent, I have no idea – but they certainly do not have the interests of the Labour party at heart.

A substantial amount of European money has been pumped into Wales over the past decade.

We must make sure that our new MEPs continue to see that we to get our share.

Assembly Notes

by ***CARWYN JONES***
AM for Bridgend Counsel General and Leader of the House.

How Trading Standards watchdogs save millions

THE Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) has welcomed new figures from the Office of Fair Trading showing local authority Trading Standards action saves UK consumers at least £347 million a year.

A spokeswoman stated that a new study OFT found that, on average, for every £1 that Trading Standards spend on that action they deliver direct consumer savings of at least £6.

OFT chairman Philip Collins commented: "The current economic climate means that work by local authority Trading Standards to promote and maintain fair trading in their communities and across the UK is more important than ever.

"These findings demonstrate the very substantial contribution that Trading Standards make to the economic prosperity of the UK by protecting consumers and preventing them losing hundreds of millions of pounds each year."

Lee Jones, head of BCBC's public protection department, which includes Trading Standards, added: "The council's trading standards officers are committed to stopping rogue traders ripping off our residents and providing support and advice to our local businesses".

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL JUNE 25)

The high tides listed in The GEM are those in Barry. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Porthcawl, the high point will be 15– 20 minutes earlier.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
18 Thur	02.47	12.3	15.14	12.3
19 Fri	03.54	12.6	16.26	12.7
20 Sat	05.02	13.0	17.28	13.5
21 Sun	06.01	13.7	18.25	13.9
22 Mon	06.59	14.0	19.22	14.3
23 Tues	07.52	14.3	20.16	14.8
24 Wed	08.49	14.7	21.10	14.8
25 Thur	09.44	14.8	22.02	14.9

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send your *letters to The GEM at the address given at the foot of this page*

'APPOINTMENTS A DICTATORSHIP'

PETER MANDELSON, Alan Sugar, Glennis Kinnock have been co-opted to ministerial, or virtually ministerial posts, by giving them a seat in the unelected House of Lords – making them Tsars of something or the other.

Is this democracy? I emphatically say it is not!

These are not persons elected to govern the electorate, they are placements by Gordon Brown to shore up his grip on Westminster.

We regularly hear comments that describe this Blairite-Brownite-Nu-Labour party as being an elective dictatorship; fact is that it is a classical dictatorship.

What else can we call a political system that allows a single person (Gordon Brown) to appoint persons who will dictate what happens to us without us having any say on their appointment?

Marc Delaney

Why wasn't the Queen at the D-Day tribute?

A ONCE great nation has been profoundly shamed by weak, enfeebled Ministers and more distressingly by the French premier.

I watched the commemoration services taking place across those hallowed grounds in France, where once brave men and women fought and died with courage and belief in the righteousness of their cause; for Queen and country, democracy and freedom...

Freedom for all of those oppressed people of Europe who had suffered under the jack boot of fascism... In many cases, they stood alone, fought their fear and did their duty.

It is only through their great efforts and sacrifices that today we are able to build a strong and united Europe.

What I saw caused me embarrassment and shamed us and our nation. Where was the Queen? Of all of those heads of state present, it is only she who could have added real meaning, to the ceremony.

She who always stands shoulder to shoulder on all major events involving our Armed Forces past and present?

I do not blame the Queen; she has to follow the lead of those in Government who are supposed to be "in charge".

It is truly shaming when those who are supposed to be responsible for the running of our country find it all too irksome and tedious to put aside just a little time and effort once a year to properly prepare to honour our fallen service men and women, who gave their lives on foreign soil and rest there still, in our name.

No more of this; it doth offend my heart (Coriolanus 161)

Major Wayne Morgan MBE
Chairman,
Bridgend Royal British Legion and Bridgend & County Borough Veterans Association

'Porthcawl's assets *(and its potential)* are being ruined'

PORTHCAWL is blessed with a series of lovely beaches, giving it the potential to be a top class resort.

I understand there is now a proposal to provide mobile home parking at the (as yet) one unspoilt beach, Rest Bay, which is also the most attractive – a world class beach as nature intended. I cannot believe that BCBC can allow this to happen.

I appreciate that there is a pressing need to provide for motor homes, but the town's other beaches are already dominated by commerce – Sandy Bay is dominated by funfair and amusements, Trecco by caravans, and Newton by access to the caravan park – and a disgracefully neglected and closed-off car park.

These or other existing holiday sites must be pressed into service, rather than ruin the town's greatest asset – and no, I am not NIMBY since I live on the other side of town.

I am not sure how much BCBC appreciates the potential of Porthcawl, or whether some of its members care, as plan after plan is sunk by other priorities and the greed of private landowners stultifying progress.

Andrew Collier,
Porthcawl

LOCAL INFORMATION

MADELEINE MOON MP for Bridgend
Westminster office - 02072194417
Constituency office - 47, Nolton Street, Bridgend. Open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 10am - 12pm. Telephone 01656 750002
HUW IRRANCA-DAVIES MP for Ogmore
Constituency Office 01656 737777
JANICE GREGORY AM for Ogmore
Constituency Office 01656 860034
CARWYN JONES AM for Bridgend
Constituency office 01656 664320
Bethan Jenkins AM for South West Wales
Telephone 01639 643549
BRIDGEND CAB Citizens' Advice Bureau, Ground Floor, 26 Dunraven Place, Bridgend CF31 1JD 01656 654951 – Open to personal callers: Tuesday-Friday 10am-12.30pm or telephone service: Monday-Friday 10am-12.30pm.
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Porthcawl 01656 785411
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GAS (escapes and emergency) **0800 111999**
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National Drugs Helpline **0800 776600**
DASH **01656 650686**
SSAFA – Forces Help for serving and ex-service men, women and families in need **01656 785435**
RAF Association Welfare Officer
01495 249522/01446 740522
SAMARITANS (emotional support) **01656 662333**
MENTAL DISTRESS
(Mental Health Matters) **01656 767045**
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NSPCC 0800 800500
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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL (selected numbers)
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(emergencies out of hours) **01656 663247;**
(homelessness) **01656 643542.**
EDUCATION 01656 642643
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HIGHWAYS EMERGENCIES
(outside normal working hours) **07831 143600**
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TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS
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Blaencaerau pupils are taken to police station – for GOOD behaviour!

YEAR-6 pupils from the Blaencaerau Primary School recently became mini-crime scene investigators when they visited South Wales Police Headquarters – as a reward for their good behaviour...

Dressed head to toe in the white boiler suits and masks made famous by the ever-growing CSI dramas on our small screens, 23 pupils aged 10-11 learnt how to lift fingerprints from crime scene surfaces in the new scientific support unit.

The pupils were also shown how to capture foot prints from a variety of surfaces, such as concrete and sand, as well as learning about the use of CCTV footage in court cases.

During the tour, pupils were shown the state of the art specialist equipment used by officers during their investigations, including 100 x magnification 'Micro-viper' software, and a machine which lifts fingerprints from metal objects – worth £175,000.

The tour was organised by Caerau Neighbourhood Policing Team, who visited Waterton Cross with the children earlier in the day so they could meet the police dogs and horses.

As PC Sharon Hier described her responsibilities as a mounted officer, the lucky pupils had the opportunity to train the newest police horse recruit Samson in the school riding area by waving football flags and using chanting and clapping commands.

The children also watched a demonstration with one of the force's dogs, Duke, as he chased down and caught PC Alan Russ after instruction from his handler, PC Mark Raybould.

Caerau Beat Manager PC Steve Bowen said: "We're pleased the children had such a great day, and we hope it will inspire them to think of the police service as a potential career in the future."

Back row from left: PCSO Karl Smith, PC Steve Bowen and PCSO Kim Harris Front row: Thomas Hall and Lee Nuanmaroeng.

Capital drama part for young Bridgend actress

LEFT: Lauren Phillips, who will be joining the cast of Caerdydd.

BRIDGEND actress Lauren Phillips (pictured above) is to join the fourth series of S4C drama, *Caerdydd*, which follows the tangled lives of a group of the Welsh capital.

Lauren Phillips (28), plays Sara – an art teacher who becomes best friends with Emyr (played by actor Lee Haven Jones).

The character has had a tough time as she's just found out her husband is having an affair.

Lauren, a former pupil at Ysgol Gyfun Llanhari, played straight-talking, loud-mouth Kelly, in the popular soap opera *Pobol y Cwm*.

Kevin gets on his bike to help needy children

BRIDGEND resident, Kevin Sibley, is encouraging cyclists across the region to 'do something brilliant' with their bikes and help raise funds for the NSPCC by organising their own BIG BIKE RIDE.

Kevin is in training for his NSPCC BIG BIKE RIDE which is set to take place on Friday, July 10.

Kevin (46) has chosen to cycle a 180-mile route riding from Llandudno to Porthcawl via Aberystwyth, Aberaeron and Neath, with son Gavin and sister Mari and hopes to encourage other people to register and organise their own BIG BIKE RIDE and raise vital funds for the NSPCC.

He explained: "I enjoy cycling for fun and organising my own event with NSPCC was easy and for a good cause. I want to help the NSPCC as it's a charity I really believe in. I'm looking forward to having fun, and the bonus is we'll be raising a few pounds to help vulnerable children."

Money raised from all BIG BIKE RIDE events will go towards the NSPCC's £50 million Child's Voice Appeal, which was launched in September 2008 to fund expansion of both the ChildLine service and the NSPCC Helpline.

For further details, contact www.bigbikeride.co.uk or call 0845 130 3073.

Sergeant Ryan saves best for prestigious Cadet award

THE Royal British Legion in south east Wales recently held the Lord Lieutenant's Poppy appeal Cadet awards at Pencoed Social Club.

Sergeant Ryan Matthews of Penarth Army Cadet Force was awarded the chief fire officer, South Wales Fire & Rescue Service award for individual endeavour.

This award was for the Cadet who had raised the most money for the Poppy appeal in November 2008.

PRESENTATION AT PENCOED

YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:
If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.
I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
TEL: 01656 725399
email: tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk

Parish fete

THE Llansantffraid, Bettws and Aberkenfig Parish will be holding a summer fete at Sarn Community Life Centre on Saturday June 27 at 11am.

There will be stalls with homemade cakes, jams and preserves, Tombola, raffles and bric-a-brac stalls and barbecue.

Mother's Union

THE ladies from the Diocese of Llandaff have contributed towards a luxurious static caravan with central heating at Trecco Bay, Porthcawl.

This six-berth caravan is for the use of families and carers who struggle to afford holidays, but will now be able to enjoy a free week at the seaside.

For 20 years, caravans have been funded and run by members of the Mothers Union.

Club recruits

ABERKENFIG Boys and Girls Club this year had four mini eight a side football teams, comprising the under-7s, 8s, 10s and 11s, unfortunately the under-9s missed out.

All the teams played in the Bridgend Sunday League. They also organised four junior eleven a side football teams comprising the under-12s, 14s and 16s which had an A and B team.

These play in the Bridgend Saturday League.

The club will soon be recruiting players for next season's football teams.

It also organises table tennis and pool competitions for the youngsters.

The club at its presentation evening will be presenting a shield to each football team, a trophy for the player of the year; and every player who has played for a team will be given a memento.

The presentation evening is being held at Tondu Cricket Club on Friday, June 26 at 7pm. This will be followed by a buffet and disco, going on 'till late. The cost is £2 per adult, inclusive of a strip of raffle tickets. All members of the club have free entry.

Any questions, contact Mr G Pope on 07764499147; Mrs G Williams on 07923699486, or 07877 849584.

Young Victoria

AT a recent meeting of the LBA Mother's Union the speaker was Mrs Ann Rogers who gave a very interesting talk on young Victoria, this covered the period before she became queen.

On June 23, there will be a cheese-tasting evening organised by Kay. There will also be a special competition with baby/child photographs of the members being exhibited and guessing the identity of the person on the photograph. Visitors welcome.

Aberkenfig WI branch

THE Aberkenfig and District Women's Institute president Eunice Williams was on holiday in Brittany, so vice-president Dilys Mitchell opened the June 10 meeting.

The meeting was a special celebration as the Aberkenfig branch had been formed 28 years ago.

She went on to report that Viv Thomason, a member for many years, had died on June 5 and said that she would be sadly missed.

Happy Birthday was later sung to Aberkenfig WI and all the June birthday girls: Hilary Crocombe, Mair Starr, Pearl Major and Pauline Soley.

The business was dealt with quite quickly and Dilys then introduced the speaker for the afternoon, Linda Fealan from the Dogs Trust in Bridgend.

Linda, a very enthusiastic team member of the Trust, told how they help dogs who become lost, abandoned or homeless due to family bereavement.

Linda related some sad and happy stories of dogs that are enjoying new lives in good homes together with photographs.

A vote of thanks was made to Linda by Dilys. A wide choice of cakes was presented by the tea hostesses, Betty Samuel, Pearl Major and Hilary Crocombe.

The raffle was won by Gill and Ethel won the competition for an item beginning with the letter 'E'.

The next meeting of Aberkenfig and District WI will be on July 8 at 2pm at the Welfare Hall, Heol Persondy, Aberkenfig.

New members and guests warmly welcomed. The August 12 meeting will be a fish and chip lunch, instead of an outing as in past years.

Community hall

SARN and Bryncethin Community Association's management committee would like to thank Mr Ian Hunt, the managing director of Filco supermarkets for the financial support he has given over the years to the volunteers who run Sarn community centre.

The volunteers pay all the overheads required to run the centre, including part of the cost of Bridgend CBC public library for provision of a librarian.

The community centre has recently been modernised, is very secure with electronically operated steel shutters on doors and windows and a CCTV system installed internally.

The management committee welcome enquiries from photographic, art or craft societies looking for a hall to exhibit displays.

Chapel fayre

NAZARETH Baptist Chapel, Bryncethin The chapel will be holding a charity summer fayre on Saturday, June 20 between 12noon and 2pm. There will be a variety of stalls and refreshments.

Everyone is welcome.

Sports day

TYNYRHEOl Primary School, Llangeinor was holding its sports day (weather permitting) this afternoon, June 18, on Llangeinor football club field.

The school would appreciate the help of volunteers, gifts, and donations for the school fete.

MP raps Tory leader after 'flippant joke' about suicide

BRIDGEND MP Madeleine Moon has called on Tory Leader David Cameron to make a public apology for making a "flippant joke" about suicide.

The MP, who chairs the All Party Parliamentary Suicide Prevention Group, said: "It has been reported that at a private party in his Commons office to thank MPs and staff for their work on the local and Euro elections campaigns, Cameron asked guests to imagine standing on Beachy Head with a Labour activist and a Lib Dem.

"Which would they decide to push over the edge first? The Labour guy....Because it's business before pleasure".

Ms Moon pointed out that Beachy Head is notorious as a suicide 'hot spot', and has tragically been in the news again in the past couple of weeks.

"If these reports are true, I am left with a feeling of deep disappointment. I know that David Cameron will be fully aware of the pain and distress that losing a loved one can cause.

"I am sure that David Cameron cannot be unaware of the reputation of Beachy Head; as a site of so many sad deaths, over so many years. As such, I would not have anticipated such flippancy on such a serious issue from a man of your position.

"As chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Suicide Prevention Group I call on David Cameron to make a public apology for the offence he has caused to so many who have been bereaved and distressed," the MP added.

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SCOPE CYCLISTS HELP BREAK DOWN BARRIERS

THE picture on the right was taken during a bike ride around Sophia Gardens organised by Scope's Rees Centre in Kenfig Hill, to raise awareness of the disability charity's Time to Get Equal Week.

Left to right are project users Michael Meadows and Karina Edwards and volunteer Heather Howe.

The annual awareness-raising week run by the disability charity (June 8-14) brought together disabled and non-disabled people to celebrate disabled people's contribution to society and to challenge discrimination which many disabled people face on a daily basis

Service manager at the Rees Centre, Lynda Francis said: "The event was very successful in raising awareness of the barriers faced by disabled people on a day-to-day basis.

"Scope's aim is that disabled people achieve equality in all aspects of their lives. Events such as this bike ride, arranged as part of Scope's Time to Get Equal Campaign, are a great way to get the message over. The event was enjoyed by everyone taking part."

Bridgend resident captures Renegade, claims £5,000 bounty!

BRIDGEND resident Mhairi Phillips claimed a £5,000 'bounty' for spotting Real Radio's elusive Real Renegade.

Listeners had been told that the Real Radio Renegade was "looking at a clock"…but where and which one?

The 'bounty' on his head for that period was a huge £5,000.

He was found by Mhairi reading a copy of The Times, under the clock outside The Railway Tavern in Bridgend on May 28.

Mhairi, a qualified hairdresser, who works in the hospital as a ward clerk, said: "I had been listening to Real Radio on my lunch hours and popping out to look for him if I thought he was close by.

"I heard the clue about the clock and a friend and I thought we'd have a look around as there are four or five big clocks in Bridgend.

"We had a look at the one by the bus station and I noticed the Railway Tavern clock.

"I'd seen a few pictures of the back of his head on the Real Radio website and, being a qualified hair dresser, I recognised his hair line!"

Mhairi spoke the magic words and what did she get? "He handed me a lollypop and calling card and said wait there."

Next thing she knew she was live on air with *Drivetime* presenter Dave Brookes, being told she had won £5,000.

"I am extremely happy, I can't believe it. My parents live in France so I'm going to spend some of the money on a couple of holidays to see them.

"I'll pay off a few minor debts and, of course, I have to split the money with my friend who has been helping me find the Real Radio Renegade," she said.

Appeal after raid attempt

POLICE are investigating an attempted burglary at HSBC Bank on Bridgend Industrial Estate.

The incident occurred around 12.20am on Monday, June 15 when access was forced through the front of the premises and the raiders unsuccessfully tried to gain access to a bank safe using a powered angle grinder.

Detective Inspector Jason Redrup of Bridgend CID said: "We would like to hear from anyone who was in the vicinity of HSBC Bank on Bridgend Industrial Estate very early on Monday morning.

"They may have witnessed something unusual or suspicious.

"The use of an angle grinder during the offence would have created quite a lot of noise."

If anyone has any information concerning this offence please contact Detective Inspector Jason Redrup at Bridgend CID on 01656 679518 or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Curling and a mystery tour for WI members

NEWS FROM THE SKER WI BRANCH

AT Sker WI's monthly meeting on June 11, secretary Cynthia Sidey informed members of future events.

Glamorgan Federation is organising various events in the autumn, including a Curling course in Bridgend Recreation Centre.

There will also be a visit to Denman College, with various courses available in March 2010.

Members were reminded of Sker WI's summer fayre on July 31 in Trinity Church Hall, and the craft show on August 29, at Cornelly Community Centre.

Thirty five members recently left Nottage by coach at 1.30pm for a mystery outing.

There was a great deal of speculation where the venue would be – it was Cardiff Castle.

There the members enjoyed a guided tour of the tower rooms designed by William Burgess.

No outing would be complete without a chance to enjoy a meal at a hostelry nearer home. The Victoria Hotel at Sigginston was the chosen place, and members enjoyed the evening, before returning to Nottage.

Vice-president Gloria Long thanked Muriel Smith for organising such a pleasant afternoon and evening.

Next month's meeting will be on Thursday, July 9, in St David's Church Hall, Nottage, at 7pm, where Margaret Griffiths will talk on Life in Cameroon. BG

Deaths in Bridgend

POLICE are investigating the suspicious death of a 40-year-old woman, who was found dead at an address in Bishopswood, Brackla, on Tuesday evening (June 16).

As a result of further enquiries, at 1.40am on Wednesday, officers went to Heol Gadlys, Litchard, Bridgend, where the body of a middle-aged man was found.

A police spokeswoman said: "HM Coroner has been informed, and the bodies have not yet been formally identified. Enquiries are continuing."

ANTI-TERRORISM TRAINING FOR BRIDGEND LICENSEES

MORE than 20 licensees and street pastors from around Bridgend borough gathered in Bryngarw House recently, to take part in an anti-terrorism training operation.

Provided by the Wales Extremism and Counter Terrorism Unit (WECHTU), the training, known nationally as Operation Argus, was designed for night-time economy workers.

Coun Mel Nott, who introduced the three-hour session, said:

"On behalf of Bridgend County Borough Council, we are committed to doing everything we can to raise awareness of terrorism. We all play an important role and it's important we work together.

" I am fully committed to supporting this type of seminar and seeing terrorism beaten."

Led by Counter Terrorism Security Advisors Mr Bev Edwards and DC Huw Williams Jones, the interactive training involved a video simulation of a terrorist attack on a bar and nightclub.

Throughout the exercise, all those who attended adopted the role of the nightclub manager, and had to say what decisions they would make to prevent and survive the terrorist attack at stop-points during the film.

After being broken down into four teams, the group discussed strategies for managing the crisis, communication barriers, reporting suspicious activity and what impact the aftermath of terrorism will have on business.

Throughout the session, a panel of experts were on hand to help answer any questions or give advice.

The panel included Police Acting Chief Inspector Edward Ough, Julie Cooper, head of emergency planning for Bridgend County Borough Council, and Gareth Davies, a paramedic for the Ambulance Service.

Emma Thomas, duty manager of the Wyndham Arms in Bridgend, who attended the training, said:

"It was an excellent session and really made us think outside the box. It has definitely helped with how I'll plan events and manage the pub in future."

Acting Chief Inspector Edward Ough, who organised the training, said:

"We must remember that whilst it is highly unlikely that a terrorist event would occur in the borough, it is important that members of the public and the business community are not complacent in terms of vigilance."

New Bridgend town mayor, the man behind the camera

THE new mayor of Bridgend Town Council is a well known photographer.

Mervyn Lewis started his professional life working for the long-established Bridgend firm of Ernest Carver.

After Mr Carver died, Mr Lewis set up his own Ashfield Photography Business based at his home in Llangewydd Court.

Coun Lewis has been on the town council, sitting as a Conservative, for three years. He went onto Bridgend County Borough Council, representing Newcastle ward, last year.

Originally from Aberkenfig, Mr Lewis has lived in Bridgend for more than 30 years.

He is married to Clare, and has two daughters – 23-year-old Jennifer and Stacey (21). Stacey is studying to be a paediatric nurse, while Jennifer works in marketing.

ABOVE: Bridgend's new mayor, Mervyn Lewis.

Clare is a controls and instrumentation engineer in power stations, having trained as an electrical engineer. She is a Bridgend girl.

Mervyn attended the old Summerhill School which closed down 40 years ago.

It was located at Bryntirion Hill, in premises now occupied by the Evangelical College.

Mr Lewis said he had always been interested in politics.

"There was a by-election for the town council and I was invited to stand. I won, and was re-elected last year.

"I put my name forward for the borough after the sitting councillors Gareth Lewis and Margaret Bertorelli both stood down.

"I enjoy being on the borough and I am looking forward to being mayor of Bridgend this year. It promises to be a busy year," he commented.

The deputy mayor is Coun Barbara Parish.

Woosie is looking to top up his old-age pension in Porthcawl

by PHILIP IRWIN

SPORTS-MAD parents should look closely at golf before letting their athletic offspring tackle football or rugby.

The average footballer (bar Paulo Maldini) is washed up at 35 or so – although he could become a manager.

Rugby stars, after a career of big hits and laying their body on the line,get together to compare notes on knee, ankle, and shoulder joint injuries.

To make matters worse, they might get ears like Graham Rowntree.

Meanwhile, the golfers just carry on raking in the cash, and they can spend their dotage topping up their pension on the seniors tour.

With a string of seniors wins behind him, Welsh star Ian Woosnam tees off in the Ryder Cup Wales Seniors Open title at Royal Porthcawl Golf Club this week, looking for more.

The 51-year-old Welshman showed he still has the competitive hunger with victory in the Irish Seniors Open title a fortnight ago and he hopes to find the same sort of inspiration which carried him to victory on the fabulous links of Ballybunion in Ireland.

Royal Porthcawl is the third successive world-class links to get the Senior Tour players excited, following Ballybunion and last week's Jersey Seniors Classic at La Moye.

'The Royal' – highly regarded in the UK and around the world – will provide another wonderful test for Woosnam, defending champion Peter Mitchell of England and a host of the Tour's leading lights, all chasing a first prize of £75,000 from a prize fund of £500,000.

Ian Woosnam said: "To be honest, I haven't played Porthcawl for a while and I am really looking forward to getting back there and re-acquainting myself with the layout.

"Naturally, I remember it being a tremendous course and it will be a great test for all of us on the Senior Tour.

"My last visit there was for an exhibition match a number of years ago and, if my memory serves correctly, I played with Brian Huggett and Ian Botham.

"One thing I do know is that I shot 61 with a five at the last. You don't forget that sort of score! I would happily repeat that this week."

Mitchell, meanwhile, aims to recapture the form that brought him three titles in his rookie European Senior Tour season in 2008, having resisted Woosnam's challenge in Wales last year to win his maiden Senior Tour title in only his second event.

He said: "It will be great to return to Wales as defending champion. I've not played Royal Porthcawl for a long time.

"The last time was when we played it as a European Tour event a long time ago, but I remember it being a very good golf course and a very pretty little town."

Joining Mitchell and Woosnam in the field for the ninth edition of the Ryder Cup Wales Seniors Open will be a parade of past champions, namely Denis Durnian - the inaugural winner in 2001 - Seiji Ebihara (2002), Bill Longmuir (2003), Carl Mason (2005 and 2007) and José Rivero (2006).

Former Ryder Cup players Gordon J Brand, Costantino Rocca and Sam Torrance are also in the field, while there is also a return to Royal Porthcawl for Des Smyth and Gordon Brand Jnr, who won the Welsh Golf Classic on the European Tour at the course in 1981 and 1982 respectively.

Troed y Ton battle over closure heads for the High Court

by JAYNE ISAAC

THE closure of Troed y Ton residential care home in Kenfig Hill is to be challenged in the High Court.

The court has given permission for a full judicial review of the closure plans to take place in Cardiff on June 29.

Two elderly residents of the home, 90-year-old Margaret Rusz and 99-year-old Alice Barwick are bringing the action.

A judge at the High Court has ruled that there are sufficient grounds for the case to be heard.

Both ladies are refusing to move to another home. Mrs Barwick has lived there for nine years.

She said: "I have lived the whole of my life in the Kenfig Hill area and cannot contemplate moving now. I always believed that Troed y Ton was my home for the rest of my life."

Ian Jacka, who is a spokesman for the Troed y Ton Action Group, said that while the plans to provide an Extra Care housing development in the borough were welcome, the group had always maintained that there were fundamental flaws in the way that the council chose Troed y Ton as the site for this proposed scheme.

There are also issues about consultation with residents, and their families have complained that they were not consulted in advance of any decisions being taken.

Helen Walker, whose elderly father Henry Thurmwood is also a resident at the home, said she was "disgusted and dismayed" at the way in which the proposed closure is being handled.

She went on: "I feel that this administration simply will not listen to our point of view and they want to build this Extra Care facility regardless of whether or not the site of Troed y Ton is the right location."

Mr Jacka said that people in Kenfig Hill were up in arms about a lack of communication from the council, and residents in Waun Bant Road have not yet seen any plans for the Extra Care development proposed on the site. The council is still moving residents out to alternative accommodation.

The Extra Care scheme would provide 70 beds in a series of flats built as part of a complex where care would be available to those who need it.

The scheme is being funded by a £2.3m grant from the Welsh Assembly, with Valleys 2 Coast finding the rest of the capital. It will run the complex.

The council had hoped to empty Troed y Ton, which has 27 beds, by September so that demolition can take place. Work to build the new complex is due to start next April.

It is unclear how these court proceedings will impact on this timetable.

Bridgend Creamery closes as buyers show no interest

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

HOPES of a white knight riding in to save jobs at a Bridgend creamery were dashed last week when the receivers said that it would close.

Following their appointment on June 3, Stephen Oldfield, David Kelly and Ian Green of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, the joint receivers and managers of Dairy Farmers of Britain Limited (DFB), announced the closure last Friday (June 12).

Following the sales of the Lubborn Creamery in Somerset and the cheese factory in Llandyrnog – which secured the transfer of more than 500 employees – the receivers were left with businesses based at Lincoln, Bridgend and Blaydon to attempt to sell.

The receivers said that a lack of interest in the Bridgend dairy – and the further withdrawal of customers – forced the closure in order to stem any losses.

Stephen Oldfield, joint receiver and manager of Dairy Farmers of Britain Ltd, said: "At the outset of our appointment, the principal objective was to keep the wheels turning and the milk flowing while decisions about the future of the business were taken. This was achieved from day one.

"The next objective was to ask the customers to support the business with continued orders and a fair price for the milk.

"Unfortunately, the loss of some key customers since appointment has resulted in the Bridgend business making significant losses. Interest from potential acquirers consequently dried up.'

The GEM understands that one key customer to go elsewhere was the Co-op.

PwC teams have met with the employee representatives and spoken to the main unions to explain the position. The 279 staff at Bridgend dairy will be paid all arrears of pay up to and including the day they leave the site.

They will also be paid by the Redundancy Payments Office holiday pay, pay in lieu of notice and redundancy up to the statutory limits.

Bridgend AM Carwyn Jones said: "I am very saddened to hear of the news today about the loss of so many jobs at such a well-established business in Bridgend.

"The Creamery has served Bridgend and further afield for generations, and this news will shock Bridgend residents.

"I will be looking at how we can best help those affected and talking to the council and the Welsh Assembly Government to ensure that all that can be done to assist people at their time of need will be done."

Conservative regional AM Alun Cairns said: "I am very disappointed that the Co-op withdrew its custom and I understand that this was a killer blow.

"The Co-op is very proud of its fair trade stance, so cancelling a contract which supported Welsh dairy farmers and jobs in Wales is puzzling. If they had stayed on board, the business would have been a much more attractive prospect to potential buyers."

The GEM asked the Co-op to comment, but a spokeswoman would say only that The Co-op did not own the Bridgend dairy.

Mr Cairns said that it was madness at a time when the government was trying to reduce the nation's carbon footprint to have milk tankers taking milk out of Wales to dairies elsewhere – and then lorries trucking the milk back into the country.

He said: "Wales has traditionally been a milk -producing nation, and yet we no longer have a creamery in the entire country that produces milk."

The trade union Usdaw will be seeking a protective award for its members at all three sites which have been shut down without consultation, affecting up to 279 employees at the Bridgend site, more than 200 in Blaydon and 150 at Lincoln.

If the claims succeed, the Employment Tribunal has the power to award redundant staff compensation of up to 90 days' pay.

John Gorle, Usdaw National Officer, stated: "We are again appalled and frustrated at the receivers' decision to close the Bridgend and Blaydon dairies, as well as the Lincoln site, without consultation.

"All our members are understandably devastated.

"In law, the receivers are required to undertake 90 days' consultation for a closure of this size. That is why we are seeking a protective award against Price Waterhouse Coopers"

Elder Street to get new lease of life

ONE of the most historic parts of Bridgend is to be transformed, under plans just lodged with Bridgend County Borough Council.

Elder Street, which is a row of terraced houses in the very centre of the town, has been left derelict for many years. They were owned at one time by Bridgend Town Council, but were bought by the Hegarty family, which owns many fine buildings in the town centre that they have refurbished to a high standard.

This row has suffered damage from a fire and the frontages have been blocked up and much of the roof destroyed.

The plans are to turn Elder Yard at the rear of the properties into a public square with the cottages linked internally to create a 48-seater restaurant.

A two-storey glazed extension would be built at the rear to accommodate a further 32 diners.

RESIDENTS DIG THEIR HEELS IN OVER LATEST LOCK'S LANE PLANS...

by GEM STAFF

THE ROW over plans to create playing fields and facilities on land at Lock's Lane, Porthcawl, is set to flare up again.

A fresh planning application has been lodged by Porthcawl Athletic Association, and this one is to erect a spectator stand at the new football field, along with catchball fencing.

They also want to install an all-weather Scansis pitch with fencing on a separate site at the sporting complex.

The row centres on additional land alongside the Lock's Lane playing fields, which was provided by Redrow under a deal with Bridgend planners, who permitted them to build houses nearby.

Residents want the land retained as public open space but the club wants to create a football pitch for the use of Porthcawl Football Club. In order to have league status, they must have a spectator stand, dug outs, crowd barriers and fencing.

The Scansis pitch is located just a few yards from the rear of homes in Merlin Close, and there are fears that floodlights will be applied for separately.

Now the police have become involved in the long, drawn-out battle between residents and the association, which has seen previous applications withdrawn.

In a letter to planners, PC Gwyn Batten, who is a 'crime reduction and architectural liaison' officer, said that he was concerned about the spectator stand.

He said that Porthcawl Cricket Club, which also uses Lock's Lane, had recently suffered vandalism to the pavilion and practice nets.

He went on: "If not adequately protected, I feel the stand will become a meeting place for local youths, and may become a hot spot for anti-social behaviour and, in turn, cause further damage to the sports facilities."

He said that a similar unprotected spectator stand at Kenfig Hill Rugby Club causes numerous problems for residents, with anti-social behaviour and criminal damage.

He said: "There is evidence of drinking, vandalism and arson, due to the fact that anyone can gain access to the stand. Will the proposed development be protected from unauthorised access when the pitch is not in use?"

He asked if the catch ball fencing was adequate to keep intruders out, and whether the entrances to the pitch would be locked.

However, Kerry Marlow, the secretary of Porthcawl Athletic Association put up a fierce defence when The GEM spoke to him.

Mr Marlow, who is a former policemen, said: "I strongly disagree with PC Batten, because he is not comparing like with like – and I have written to him to say so.

"The stand at Kenfig Hill Rugby Club is closed off, and does provide the sort of shelter that can lead to anti-social behaviour issues.

"However, our stand is nothing like it. It will be completely open, with just a roof and supports on the corners."

Mr Marlow continued: "What PC Batten is not saying is that in Kenfig Hill, just a short distance from the rugby ground, there is a stand of a similar design to ours at Kenfig Hill AFC– and there are no problems there."

Porthcawl Civic Trust has now become involved and has written to Bridgend planners to point out that the playing fields should remain a "community facility for the residents of Porthcawl".

Secretary Caroline Vaughan said she understood from correspondence with planners that in order to retain public access to this land, Porthcawl Athletic Association has suggested that the gates to the football pitch should remain unlocked.

She said: "The Trust feels that facilities like an all-weather pitch are not necessary, because one already exists at the comprehensive school which should be used more by the community. It is fully enclosed with floodlighting.

"The Trust has said that installation of floodlights at Lock's Lane would be totally unacceptable, because the field is surrounded by houses. "They would also be visible from the Landscape Conservation Area, which would contravene one of the council's own planning guidelines."

Again, Mr Marlow was adamant that the Trust's objections were unfounded.

He said: "The all-weather pitch is a mini pitch for young children. It will be too small a pitch for adults to play on.

"It will be used for the under-10s to play netball, football, volleyball and mini-cricket."

He continued angrily: "It is not equivalent to the all-weather pitch at Porthcawl Comprehensive School.

"We are very familiar with that, as our club spends a considerable amount of cash hiring it for young people to play sport.

"There is grant money available to provide this mini sports pitch, and Porthcawl parents think it would be crazy to turn it down.

"You can tell that by the 800 letters of support that we have submitted to the planners."

He emphasised: "There will be no application for floodlight for this facility, because it is so much smaller than the one at Porthcawl Comprehensive."

The Trust has also objected over highway access and parking and is calling for the application to be refused.

Resident Jim Warren of The Whimbrels said that the Redrow field, which was now open space, was well used by the public and, during weekends, dozens of children also play there with removable goalposts. If it becomes a league football field, they will be driven off.

"We have no problems on this land at the moment," he added. "But if there's a stand and dug outs, we fear that it will attract youngsters at night because they will have shelter.

"We have heard about problems in other areas and we do not want those problems here.

"It would appear that there will be open access to the field because of the need to keep it a public open space – and the two things are incompatible."

Once again, Mr Marlow disagreed: "The existing Porthcawl Town AFC pitch is already fenced off but unlocked.

"The situation will be the same if the pitch is moved to the other side of the clubhouse.

"The existing pitch will then be used for mini football and there will be no loss of public space."

The GEM asked why the pitch needed to be moved and Mr Marlow replied: "It needs to move to help Porthcawl Cricket Club meet their league obligations.

"At the moment, there is an overlap between the football and cricket seasons, and the cricket club cannot start playing until the football season has ended."

Mr Marlow added that the club had worked with BCBC planners, and had followed their advice.

He said: "I was even asked to produce a plan for the whole season of which team would play where on a week by week basis.

"Considering that we run 23 junior teams, it was a mammoth task, and I don't know of any other club that has had to do it."

He added: "It seems to me that we are being opposed by a small group of residents who are well-funded, and are determined to stop us."

The GEM asked if an earlier proposal that Bridgend Town AFC should ground share for a period in Porthcawl was a factor in this.

He said: "What I can tell people is that Bridgend Town have now written to BCBC saying that they will not be coming to Porthcawl."

Aberkenfig plans are on display

PLANS for changes in Aberkenfig are available for inspection by local residents.

The 'Aberkenfig Square' project is in the consultation stage, and the local community council has produced a consultation form to gauge reaction.

Artists' impressions and pictures, and the forms, are on display in Aberkenfig Library in an exhibition that began on June 13, and will run for two weeks from that date.

Following this period of consultation the council will review the results.

The clerk to Newcastle Higher Community Council, John Richfield, said; "People may also contact councillors or the clerk if they wish to comment."

These councillors include: Coun Byron Jones (01656 725041 chairman); Coun Derrick Baker (01656 724000 deputy chairman) or Coun Gary Haines (01656 728662).

Mr Richfield can be contacted on 01446 750663.

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THE WONDERS OF WILDMILL !

The judges

WILDMILL'S GOT TALENT

WILDMILL dancers recently held a talent show to raise money for group 'hoodies'.

After an exciting evening, with acts ranging from dancing and singing to rapping, judges 'Simon' (Chris Palmer, Communities First), 'Amanda' (Anita Langdon, WATRA) and 'Piers' (Idris Jones, resident) presented Aiyisha Williams with the first place medal for her rendition of the X-Factor finalists' song, *Hero*.

ABOVE: Aiyisha Williams.

ABOVE: Chef Lesley Shannon with the stir fry.

FOOD CO-OP

VALLEYS TO COAST, in conjunction with the Food Co-Op, came together on May 29 with the help of professional chef Lesley Shannon, to show the community of Wildmill what delicious meals can be made from the fresh fruit and vegetables that can be purchased from the Food Co-Op.

Lesley made a carrot and coriander soup, which was very quick to make and very tasty, followed by a vegetable stir fry (cauliflower, peppers, mushrooms, carrots, onion, bean sprouts and oyster sauce) and for dessert a fruit smoothie.

Residents were given the chance to taste two different types of smoothies, mixed berries and cranberry and banana and orange.

ABOVE: Four-year-old Demi Wallace enjoys the stir fry.

COOKERY CLUB

WILDMILL has its own 'BIG COOKS/little cooks' in the form of an after school intergenerational cookery club.

The sessions run for SIX weeks at a time, where up to SIX young people have the opportunity to learn some simple recipes, and are taught by local parents and grandparents with plenty of experience.

There are two age groups, 8-12 and 13-16.

The current six-week sessions have seen the older age group make coleslaw, curry, spaghetti Bolognese, home-made burgers and potato wedges, pasties and fairy cakes.

Each week, the young people are given worksheets to complete and recipes to write up and take home.

At the end of the six-week sessions, they are all awarded a certificate for participating.

ABOVE 8-12 year olds: Cooks (Back row): Diane Morris, Vanessa Sheard, Rhian Watkins, Abbey Thomas and Stephanie Thomas. (Front row): Owen Bryant, Adam Moses, Shauna Thomas, Emily Pope, Teri Anne Bryant.

RIGHT: 13-16 year olds: Dan Gray, Rhian Watkins, Diane Morris, Stephanie Thomas, Lauren Hayes, Shannon Kelly and Rhiannon Reed.

LITTER PICK

YOUTHWORKS organised a litter pick throughout Wildmill in conjunction with Brian Jones, Keep Wales Tidy, and they were assisted by community members and Communities First workers.

The 12 young people who helped out say they are proud of the area they live in and hope to keep it litter-free.

LEFT: Owen Bryant and Jordan Pope.

'OUR DEDICATED CARERS DESERVE RECOGNITION' SAYS LOCAL MP

LOCAL MP, Madeleine Moon, last week spoke up in support of Bridgend's carers, who are among the six million people in the UK that provide unpaid care for a loved one who is ill, frail, or disabled.

Madeleine Moon MP backed the national Carers Week and added: "There are approximately 10,000 people in my constituency of Bridgend who sacrifice their time – and often their health, finances, work and social life – in order to care for a loved one.

"They deserve to be recognised for the priceless contribution they make, both to our local community and to society at large".

She had taken part in Carers Week to express gratitude and respect for carers, and also to make them aware that there are services and support available to help them locally, including the carers centre in Bridgend and the great support offered by Crossroads.

"Caring can be demanding and difficult, so it's important that carers know that they don't have to struggle on alone," she added.

During Carers Week, she visited a special one-off Parliamentary Carers' Centre in Parliament being held by the Princess Royal Trust for Carers and Crossroads, as well as attending a parliamentary reception to celebrate the contribution carers make.

Mrs Moon is also calling on the Government to provide carers with more financial help.

She has written to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and the Chancellor, to support the case for increasing carers' allowance and extending it to low-paid working carers who earn more than the threshold of £95 a week.

Stan to open summer fayre

A CELEBRITY with a long association with Porthcawl will be opening a summer fayre in aid of the local Stroke club.

Stan Stennett will be at Trinity Church in John Street on Saturday, July 11, at 2pm, to officially declare the Porthcawl Stroke Club's fayre open.

Bridgend team is praised during Social Care Week

BRIDGEND County Borough Council is marking Social Care Week 2009 by paying tribute to up to 1,500 staff currently working in social care – and asking more people to consider applying to join them.

Social care staff work with families, adults and children who need support to carry out the day-to-day business of living.

A council spokesman explained: "Many social care workers work in residential homes, or as home care workers visiting people's own homes, including older people and children.

"However, there is also a huge range of other work, including working with families, with adults with disabilities, or those who have social or family difficulties."

Coun Lyn Morgan, cabinet member for well-being, said: "Our communities really rely on our social care workers to support them.

"Where would we be without the likes of our social workers, home care workers and residential home workers who support children and adults?

"Their dedication means we are able to provide an excellent service to our most vulnerable residents and support families and friends"

Who wants to build what and where?

Mr J Sheppard, **Pharmacy, Penybont Road, Pencoed** – fascia and projecting signs.

Dunelm Soft Furnishings Ltd, **Dunelm Mill (Unit 1) Waterfront Retail Park, Bridgend** – two internally illuminated flexface signs and one set of eight internally illuminated poster frames.

Mr B Osbourne, **138 High Street, Ogmore Vale** – ground floor extension.

Mr D Price, **53 Coity Road, Bridgend** – conservatory to rear of property.

Miss L Pickett, **93 Pendre, Bridgend** – disabled facilities consisting of ground floor bedroom and disabled bathroom.

Neath Port Talbot CBC, **Aberbaiden Tips near Margam OCCS Penybryn, Margam** – vary condition of an appeal to extend time to complete importation of biosolids and seeding areas by August 31, 3009.

Mr MG Harrison, **2 Curlew Road, Porthcawl** – garage extension, new windows on rear elevation, new boundary walls to existing detached bungalow.

Mr S Lambert, **34 Princess Street, Maesteg** – first floor bedroom wc extension over existing.

Mr K Morris, **land adjoining 8 Brynteg Gardens, bridgend** – change of use from school grounds to garden use.

Mr R Leonard, **4 Hutchwns Close, Porthcawl** – two-storey side extension to existing semi-detached dwelling.

Mr H Trimlett, **land/building at Penyfai Nurseries, Tondu Road, Bridgend** – conversion and minor extension to existing rural building to dwelling.

Mr PG Ghroum, **36 Bowham Avenue, Bridgend** – single storey extension.

HD Limited, **3-11 Elder Street, Bridgend** – conversion of existing terrace of cottages into restaurant/café.

Anchormill Homes Limited, **land at Duffryn Oaks (phase four) off Hendre Road, Pencoed** – approval of reserved matters for consent P/06/550/POUT for 19 dwellings.

HD Limited, **9 Elder Street, Bridgend** – conversion of existing house into restaurant. **11 Elder Street, Bridgend** – conversion of existing house into restaurant. **3 Elder Street, Bridgend** – conversion of existing house into restaurant. **7 Elder Street, Bridgend** – conversion of existing house into restaurant. **5 Elder Street, Bridgend** – conversion of existing house into restaurant.

The Co-operative Group, **Co-Op Supermarket, Penybont Road, Pencoed** – new shopfront to match existing and security bollards.

Mr Bilaal lAhmed Khan, **301 New Road, Porthcawl** – demolition of house and erection of detached block of flats.

Melanie Lazarus & Co. **33A Dunraven Place, Bridgend** – change of use from residential to solicitors office.

Mr A Mannon, **5 Fountain Cottages, Aberkenfig** – lean-to rear extension.

Cor Bro Ogwr puts on a gala night of opera

PHOTOGRAPHS by KEITH E MORGAN

THE renowned local choir, Cor Bro Ogwr, staged a gala night of opera recently in All Saints Church, Porthcawl.

Baritone Donald Maxwell was the compere for the evening and, of course, also sang.

He introduced fellow soloists, soprano Rebecca Rudge and tenor Shaun Dixon, and alto Joan Jefferies.

Edward-Rhys Bate conducted his first concert with Cor Bro Ogwr.

The organist was Glen Crookes, and the Chamber Orchestra of Wales accompanied the choir.

ABOVE: Opening prayers were said by Canon Philip Masson

ABOVE: Rebecca Rudge receiving abouquet of flowers from a member of Côr Bro Ogwr.

ABOVE: Rebecca Rudge and Donald Maxwell in the duet 'Quanto Amore' from L'Elisir D'Amore (Elixir of Love) by Donizetti

ABOVE: Left to right: Coun Rosemary Deere (Mayor of Porthcawl), Canon Philip Masson, Coun Jeff Tildesley (Mayor of Bridgend County Borough), David-Lloyd Jones, and Carwyn Jones AM.

ABOVE: The performers were (left to right): Edward-Rhys Bate (conductor), Donald Maxwell (baritone), Shaun Dixon (tenor), Joan Jefferies (alto), and Rebecca Rudge (soprano).

LEFT: Donald Maxwell, Shaun Dixon, Joan Jefferies and Rebecca Rudge, singing 'S'appressan Gl'istanti' from Nabucco by Verdi

Bridgend AM's surgeries

CARWYN JONES, the Assembly Member for Bridgend, will hold a surgery at 9.30am-11.30am, ths Saturday, June 20, in his Bridgend constituency office, Emlyn House, 36 Caroline Street, Bridgend, CF31 1D.

Saturday morning surgery operates with an appointments system.

Home visits can be arranged by contacting the constituency office; telephone 01656 664320; or email Carwyn.jones@wales.gov.uk.

KPC Youth meeting

KPC Youth is holding its AGM at the centre, off Pyle Inn Way in Pyle, on July 13, from 6pm.

All parents and community members are welcome to attend.

It would be appreciated if attendance could be confirmed to Alison on 01656 749219 or kpcyouth@hotmail.com.

How the bad weather failed to dampen the Mid-Summer Madness celebrations in the streets of Bridgend town

BRIDGEND Festivals produced and funded this annual event which is in its eighth year and started on Thursday June 4, ending Saturday June 6.

A total of 26 craft and trade stalls were located in Wyndham Street and Caroline Street, and a marquee was located for cookery demonstrations in Market Street.

A stage was erected at the Cenotaph, hosting live entertainment and the event was enhanced by a further 26 stalls representing voluntary organisations at Dunraven Place.

ABOVE: Demonstrations in the chef marquee.

Bridgend Festivals and Rural Development department hosted a cookery demonstration marquee at Dunraven Place.

Four local schools attended four workshops over two days, teaching primary school children cooking skills.

A celebrity chef produced two workshops on how to cook on a credit crunch budget and cooking using local produce and seasonal food.

Rural development spokesperson, Cressida Slater, said: "The workshops were a tremendous success. The children were so excited during the chopping and preparing of their dishes.

"The Saturday cooking demonstrations pulled in many crowds who were very enthusiastic to see more of these workshops taking place again, even though the weather was appalling on the Saturday".

ABOVE: Despite the poor weather, the event was still deemed a success.

Bridgend Town Mayor, Coun Mervyn Lewis, met the stallholders. Sharon Headon, BAVO organiser, also introduced the mayor to the voluntary organisations that attended the event.

She said: "Each year, more and more voluntary organisations give up their time to take part. The feedback and interest has been excellent!"

Andre Van Wyk, organiser of the 'Big Draw' said: "We had artists painting in the street, an exhibition in the public library, the Graham Paul building and Hope Baptist Church. Also, beautiful, locally-produced, handcrafted quality furniture, produced by students of Bridgend College was exhibited in an unused unit at the Rhiw Shopping Centre."

Bridgend Chamber of Trade president, Vicky Perks said: "The chamber of trade holds regular monthly meetings and are fully appraised of all the events.

"I urge businesses of all sizes to engage with the chamber and be more proactive in portraying the positive image that Bridgend Town deserves."

Bridgend Festival events manager, Barry King, commented that he was very disappointed in that a difficult decision had to be made to cancel the Mardi Gras this year, due to the bad weather.

"I would like to thank all the selfless volunteers who make these events possible.

"If there are enthusiastic individuals who wish to be part of the Bridgend Festival team, please contact us on Bridgend 01656 661338.

"We are currently seeking a motivated person to assist our organisation with developing content for our parades, and developing further relationships with Bridgend schools and colleges," he added.

ABOVE: The Mayor and Sharon Heading.

GOING ON A WALKABOUT WITH THE PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS

Tracking the industrial heartland from Blaenavon to Coity Mountain

THE negative weather forecast more than likely deterred many walkers from taking part in Janet and John's recent historical trip up to Blaenavon – but in fact, the day remained dry and bright!

Blaenavon Ironworks opened in 1788, having been founded by three businessmen from the Midlands, Thomas Hill, Thomas Hopkins and Benjamin Pratt, at a cost of £40,000 on land leased from Lord Abergavenny.

The local hill structure was used to assist efficiency when the hillside was cut back to form a sheer cliff and the three brick or stone furnaces were built below.

This meant that ore, coke and limestone, used for the making of iron, could be dropped into the furnace from the high ground above and the heat was generated by blasts of air provided by a steam engine.

Within 10 years, the ironworks was the second largest in Wales, employing 350 workers and producing 5,400-tons of iron per year.

In 1810, two further furnaces were added to meet demand and the water balance tower was used to raise pig iron to Hill's Tramroad, built on the sides of the mountains, which forged a link with the Brecon and Abergavenny canal.

By 1880, a new foundry was built across the valley for steel production and Blaenavon ironworks fell into decline. It closed in 1904, but became active again during both world wars, producing shell steel.

Starting at the ironworks, now managed by CADW and which is being slowly and faithfully restored, the quartet entered Stack Square (built during 1789-1792) for housing iron workers and their families.

Each unit housed up to eight people, and this area became famous during 2007, when BBC Wales began its 'Coalhouse' series and three families were transported back in history to 1927.

Crossing the main road, the group headed towards Coity Mountain and after passing the site of an old drift mine they set about the task of climbing to the top at 578-metres.

ABOVE: The intrepid ramblers pose for the camera!

At the summit, they were rewarded with fine views of the surrounding countryside and across the Severn Estuary.

Much of the mountain hides a labyrinth of old coal mines and is included in the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site.

Travelling southwards, with skylarks to accompany them, the group descended the mountain to reach Varteg Road, followed by a walk through Blaenavon community woodland that led them back through the town to their start point.

On June 20, meet at 9.30am at Cogan Leisure Centre for an 8-mile mod/hard walk to the Goose and Cuckoo Inn; contact Roger on 01446 418514.

On June 21, meet at 9am at Cogan for a 10-mile mod/hard walk at Tintern and St Briavels; contact Joy on 01446 737131.

On June 25, the seventh summer evening walk will leave the Windmill playing fields, Llantwit at 7pm for a 5-mile moderate walk at Llanmaes and Sigingstone; contact Rachel on 01446 410545.

Wear suitable clothing, preferably boots and carry waterproofs, food and drinks. Some degree of fitness is required and if you are in any doubt, then please contact the walk leader for advice. For other groups' walk log onto www.ramblers.org.uk.

Rucksack badges, programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2021 9102.

JOY STRANGWARD.

Local Rotarians take Kids Out for day in Somerset

ABOVE: Enjoying an ice-cream in the Somerset sun.

JUNE 10 was the 20th anniversary of Kids Out – a day when Rotary Clubs all over Britain take children who would otherwise not have the chance, for a memorable day out.

This year, the Rotary Club of Barry took 61 youngsters from Jenner Park and Cadoxton primary schools, Ysgol Maes Dyfan, and a group of Young Carers to Brean Leisure Park in Somerset.

Despite predictions of inclement weather, it was a glorious day and the children had a great time getting in as many rides on all the attractions as they could.

Some of the teachers and carers were even tempted as well! At the end of a tiring but very enjoyable day, everyone was treated to an ice cream.

Don Parker, president of Barry Rotary Club (who sampled the water ride himself!) said:

"It gives us great satisfaction to see so many youngsters having such a fun time.

"We have been supporting Kids Out for many years and hope to do so again next year."

Ian Thomson, president of Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland, said: "Days out give children the opportunity to experience and discover new things and the effects of something as simple as having fun can last forever.

"All our Rotary volunteers love taking part in the KidsOut Day because it is a day filled with laughter and you can tell by the smiles what a difference it is making to these children.

"Rotary believes strongly in the importance of promoting fun and happiness for young people irrespective of background or circumstance."

ROBIN PITCHER

Stylish bowlers in classy victory

by CLIVE PHILLIPS

BARRY Athletic opened their PG1 programme for the season with an impressive 86 shots to 63 win against Rhiwbina at the Island on Saturday.

The Athletic were successful on three rinks, with Chris Blake skipping his side to the best performance of the day with a runaway 29-9 victory.

Chris celebrated his latest selection in the Welsh squad for the British Isles Championship, taking place in Belfast this month, with a confident all-round performance.

He received good support from his No 3 Dave Snelling with Milton Eskins and Clive Phillips at the front.

Glyn Thomas, who is involved in considerable travelling for work these days, came in with a 26-18 scorecard, while Geoff Whittaker scraped home 19-17.

It was a good all-round performance for DK Williams' first team, collecting 12 points.

Scores: Barry Athletic v Rhiwbina: G Gane, D Coombs, M Vaughan, G Whittaker 19, I Cannon, M Lewis, M Allen, D Mitchell 17; C Phillips, M Eskins, D Snelling, C Blake 29, T Arnold, A Greaves, G Smith, M Mitchell 9; S McKernan, J Beanland, DK Williams, G Thomas, 26 B Cooper, A Jarrett, J Parsons, C Wood 18; J Horgan, G Nicholls, G Humphreys, R Horgan 12, J Scannell, D Gough, D Hyde, I Kelly 19.

The absence of three regular skips, due to international squad training and work commitments, meant it was always going to be a struggle for the PG1 line-up at Bridgend on Sunday afternoon.

Bridgend were the stronger team on the day and collected 12 points with a fine 61-93 shot total.

Glyn Thomas salvaged two points for the visitors with a gritty display that earned his rink a 20-17 triumph.

Dave Snelling, skipping in the absence of Chris Blake, battled well throughout on his rink before going down 17-21.

The Athletic's PG2 side went down 81-90 against Cardiff at Sophia Gardens.

The Barry club picked up four points thanks to wins by skips Bill Summerell and Albert Mintern.

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Summer fete fun at Maes-yr-Haul Primary

THERE was an Indian theme to the summer fete at Maes-yr-Haul Primary School in Broadlands last weekend.

The Parents and Friends Association included an Indian MELA so, along with all the usual games, bouncy castle, stalls and hot dogs, there was a chance to watch and sample Indian dancing (classical and Bollywood), Sari dressing, have mehinidi patterns painted and sample a variety of Indian foods. There was even a demonstration by a group of parents and teachers (far right) who had been practising a dance especially for the occasion.

Photos by MANDY THOMAS
(Available for purchase, telephone 07974 518347)
www.mandythomasphotography.co.uk

ABOVE: Teachers and parents put on their own Bollywood dance performance!

Happy result for SADS charity event

A RECENT charity fundraising evening in Penarth topped £3,000 – more than £2,000 over the target set by its organisers.

Police Officer, Malcolm Thomas and his daughter Nicola staged a comedy evening and charity auction at Penarth Conservative Club to raise funds for 'SADS' (Sudden Arrhythmic Death Syndrome). Malcolm's daughter, Natalie, Nicola's sister died from SADS eight years ago.

Nicola said that she had hoped to raise £1,000 towards the charity which carries out research into the illness:

"I was completely taken aback by the generosity of everyone who came along to the evening, and being able to raise some £3,000 was absolutely fantastic.

"I am so grateful to everyone, especially those who donated some excellent raffle prizes and auction lots as well as everyone who supported the event."

Malcolm Thomas added: "We are also very grateful to our sponsors Steve Jones of Porsche Motors and Simon at Cardiff Flying School for their generous support for the auction."

During the evening, Hugh Meddins 2008 president of the Welsh Bowling Association as well as President of Dinas Powys Bowling Club, presented Malcolm Thomas with a cheque for £250.

Hugh had chosen SADS as his charity for his year in office.

MARIE CURIE STAFF STEP OUT

STAFF at the Marie Curie Hospice in Penarth are pictured (above) during a charity walk from Cardiff to Penarth, when they braved the elements to raise money for the hospice.

The walkers are pictured at the Scott Memorial in Cardiff Bay.

Scam advertisements - a warning to the public

THE following joint warning to the public has been issued by the City of London Police, Metropolitan Police Service and Westminster Trading Standards.

Police are advising the public not to reply to bogus adverts placed in local and national press by a company claiming to sell high value electrical goods at reduced prices.

Customers who have attempted to buy goods from the advert have been asked to pay or transfer cash into a bank account. They are told that the items will be sent to them, only to find that the purchases never arrive.

The adverts have been placed in local papers and magazines nationwide under a variety of names, including Arash Ltd, The Gadget Company, Gadget Limited, Office Bits Warehouse, Office Supplies Cabin and Office Brands Megastore.

The only contact details are telephone and fax numbers and occasionally an email address that is based on the URL@easymailorders.com.

(It should be noted that there are companies in the UK trading legitimately under names similar to 'The Gadget Company'.)

Another aspect of the scam is that cards from a company calling themselves 'Parcel Express UK' are posted through random front doors telling the householder that they have missed delivery of a parcel.

It asks the recipient to phone a number and pay for a customs charge of the product by credit or debit card, once this is done, the parcel fails to arrive.

Again the money is not debited from the victims' account but the details are later used fraudulently.

Parcel Express UK is not a legitimate company. As a matter of course unless you are confident of the legitimacy of the company contacting you then do not provide your card or bank details to organisations or people not known to you.

If you have placed an order in response to one of the newspaper adverts concerned, or called 'Parcel Express UK', you should inform your bank immediately and cancel your card.

Detective Chief Superintendent Steve Head, head of the Economic Crime Directorate at the City of London Police and the force investigating the frauds, said:

"The City of London Police Economic Crime Directorate is working closely with Westminster Trading Standards Office and the Metropolitan Police to identify those responsible for this fraud.

"We are at an early stage, however it is evident victims have been duped by bogus advertisements for reduced price goods, placed in trusted newspapers and national magazines. Our advice to people is this: only ever part with your financial details to a known and trusted company.

"Likewise if an approach for delivery of a parcel is unexpected or unsolicited, be wary, question the reasons why and take time out to consider the validity of the request. Trading Standards or Consumer Direct can offer advice."

If you suspect you have been a victim of this crime please report it to the City of London Police at ophukka@cityoflondon.police.uk.

Further advice on consumer rights can be found at www.consumerdirect.gov.uk, or by contacting Consumer Direct on 08454 04 05 06.

Hundreds queue to take up free insulation offer

A MILE-LONG tailback snaked across a Bridgend Industrial Estate on Saturday, June 13, as car drivers queued to collect free loft insulation from Rockwool, the Bridgend-based mineral wool insulation manufacturer.

More than 19 tonnes of loft insulation was distributed to eager householders looking to reduce their fuel bills and benefit the environment by reducing their energy consumption. Householders brought everything from minibuses, camper vans, trailers and even an ancient Citroen 2CV to load up on free loft insulation!

People wishing to take advantage of the Rockwool offer can collect the free insulation for their home from the warehouse at John Raymond Transport, off Queens Road, Bridgend Industrial Estate, Bridgend, anytime between 9.30am-4pm on Saturday, June 20 and 27and Saturday July 4.

Mrs Kapowski collecting insulation for her four bedroom detached house commented: "My heating bills seem to be constantly going upward, so I wanted to insulate my loft to help save money. I shudder to think how much heat has escaped from my loft over the last 20 years.

Rockwool staff are on hand to help homeowners load their cars and select the right product quantities.

For more information visit www.rockwool.co.uk.

Ty Hafan lottery winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan lottery draw number 570.

● **£2000:** 393382. ● **£500:** 600246. ● **£100:** 642550. ● **£50:** 666383. ● **£10:** .149572, 419088, 629683, 254912, 461993, 556585, 383635, 582109, 611351, 327885, 134789, 268512, 464474, 428783, 199782, 621819, 361645, 165500, 319762, 763451 ● **£5:** 269730, 512275, 498691, 483063, 541118, 143633, 515986, 184120, 169345, 776301, 797430, 762558, 433408, 399882, 470638, 809134, 350810, 391741, 525282, 433473, 194349, 106339, 895244, 757665, 612502, 476742, 884367, 322166, 169646, 829259.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

Artist draws on her experience as carer in Senedd exhibition

VALE artist, Sol Jorgensen, brought the work of carers into the Senedd with paintings and drawings of her life as a carer of Seth, her son.

Linking to the Carers Choir and Gwanwyn, the Age Concern Festival for Carers, Sol brought groups and networks together at the Senedd and her exhibition, hosted by Jane Hutt AM, was widely admired.

Ms Hutt said: "I am privileged to know Sol Jorgensen as an inspiring artist and dedicated carer of her son, Seth.

Hosting the exhibition and launch as part of Carers Week provided me with the opportunity to speak about the lives of carers such as Sol, of whom there are so many in my constituency, the Vale, and to welcome the wide range of organisations that link with and support carers in the Vale and neighbouring communities."

ABOVE: Jane Hutt AM with Sol Jorgensen and her Art Work

VALE CARERS 'IMPORTANT EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR'

Jane Hutt Am at the meeting with carers' groups.

CARERS' support groups in the Vale won glowing praise from local AM Jane Hutt at a Carers' Week event in the Dyffryn Gardens marquee last week.

Ms Hutt said: "Carers are important every day of the year, not just once a year when we focus particularly on their lives and listen to their needs.

"The organisations represented at the Vale Carers Day are developing their services in and impressive way, providing advocacy, support, respite and care and I was delighted to support their work again this year.

"My main message is to thank the carers for their unstinting support for their families and to welcome them to contact me to take up any issues they wish to discuss to improve services."

ROCKWOOL

CUT HEATING BILLS BY UP TO £205 A YEAR*

FREE LOFT INSULATION GIVEAWAY

Rockwool, the world's leading producer of stone wool insulation is giving away insulation **FREE** to homeowners in South Wales for a limited period – enough to insulate over 3,000 homes.

Rockwool loose lay insulation can be raked into loft floors, boosting home energy efficiency and cutting heating bills by up to £205 a year.

The Rockwool insulation is available for collection from

John Raymond Transport
Off Queens Road,
Bridgend Industrial Estate,

from 9.30am – 4pm on:

- Saturday 20th June 2009
- Saturday 27th June 2009
- Saturday 4th July 2009

No more than 40 bags of insulation per household.

**The Energy Saving Trust estimates that a properly insulated loft can cut home heating bills by up to £205 a year for the average three-bedroom semi-detached house*

NEWS FROM THE PENARTH COMPUTER CLUB

Speaker tells how to avoid holiday video torture!

HAVE you ever been to visit friends, only to shudder when they as! Would you like to see our holiday video?

To help us avoid putting our friends through all that, Mike agreed to share his thoughts on how to turn the prospective torture into a treat.

His talk to Penarth Computer Club began with a short film showing just what NOT to do when you film your holiday. The examples showed that if you do not have a tripod then you must try to brace yourself against a wall, tree or lamppost, as this helps to keep the camera steady.

A camcorder can capture movement, but there is some movement that makes viewing very uncomfortable for your audience.

The example showed quick zooming and then, when zoomed in, panning to left or right.

There is no better way to make your viewing audience feel the need for a sick bag.

The film also showed the correct way to use zoom SLOWLY – and the correct way to pan the camera also SLOWLY.

The last clip showed swans enjoying an argument on Cosmeston Lake. Capturing such an interesting event was a good example to encourage photographers and those who prefer the camcorder to carry their camera with them more often.

The sight of such big birds squabbling is somewhat spectacular.

Looking ahead to the process of editing, Mike suggested that a new project could be introduced by shooting a short clip saying what was to follow such as, 'Today is the November 10 and we are visiting Bristol Zoo.'

He also suggests that a moving object is better depicted moving into the picture rather than out of it, so put some spare space in the picture that the object can be heading toward.

Don't forget to take at least one minute more video per clip than you need. This will give you the chance to edit with ease and the ability to use transitions to go from one video clip to the next.

With everything safely 'in the can' as they say in the movies, we were then told how to upload the video to the computer. It's easy because the equipment does all the work; you just follow the instructions.

The video must now be edited using your computer and a simple editing program. The job of editing is to cut out the unwanted parts of the video and move smoothly from one section to the other without your audience noticing.

This means that your edited version is short and interesting to your intended audience. You might, of course, have different length versions for family and for friends.

The next part concerned transitions: A transition is a method of moving from one video clip to the next as seamlessly as possible.

Different types of transitions were explained and demonstrated. These ranged from a simple cut where a piece of video ends and the next one begins to the more sophisticated cross-fade where as the one piece of video fades out along with its sound track the next fades in.

Many types were shown and demonstrated with the advice to choose only a few. Use too many and you will spoil a good video.

Camcorders record sounds, of course, including sounds that are not wanted. Wind noise can be reduced by wrapping the microphone with a furry sleeve. Directional microphones are available that pick up sounds only from what they are pointed at.

Music files can be incorporated into the video and can be faded in or out as needed.

Having filmed your holiday; put it onto the computer and edited it, just what is left? Mike gave a brief show of how to add titles and credits.

Finally, burn your production to DVD. The program helps you here in that it guides you into making a menu, so when you put your DVD in the player, a menu allows you to select which part of the video you want to see.

Your DVD is not just a great memory. You can feel so proud of your efforts that you will want to lend it to friends, and wait for the comments on how much they enjoyed your holiday.

Penarth Computer Club next meets on Tuesday, June 23 at 7.30pm in All Saints Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth. Chips and Chats and a fun quiz. Visitors and new members are welcome. For more information, telephone 029 2070 8439.

HOWARD DESMOND

CAROL IS A TAKE THAT WINNER!

THE BRO Radio/Glamorgan GEM Take That concert winner was Carol Williams from Llantwit Major, who entered via the entry form in The GEM.

Carol took her friend Chris and they not only enjoyed Take That, but also saw James Morrison who was the support act and enjoyed VIP treatment in the hospitality suite and guest seats for the concert.

The question was: '*Shine' is the second single taken from Take That's comeback album Beautiful World, but in which year did it reach number one in the UK?*

The correct answer was **C**: 2007.

BRO Radio station manager Steve Powell, said: "It has been a fantastic competition, with a tremendous response. I Would like to thank everyone who took part, commiserations to those who did not win.

"Don't worry, there are many more competitions on the way!

"We would like to thank Take That tour management and the Glamorgan GEM for their wonderful support."

BRO Radio is on 98.1FM and online at www.broradio.co.uk. Email studio@broradio.co.uk or call the studio on 033 044 04 981 (local call charge).

ABOVE: Carol Williams, the happy recipient of a pair of tickets to watch Take That in the Millennium Stadium.

Annual Scout fete will be the big attraction

THE 56th Barry District Scout and Guide annual fete, will take place at Romilly Park on Saturday, July 4 with the official opening at 1.15pm.

This year's fete will celebrate 100 years of Sea Scouting, and will feature displays from the Sea Cadets Field Gun Display team, Welsh Bockers, Barry Kyokushin Karate Club and the Welsh Piping Society, as well as an It's a Knock Out competition by the Scouts and Guides.

Programmes are now on sale, £1.50 in advance and £2 on the day. For the list of places to purchase a programme, visit the website *www.barryscouts.org.*

Please email your stories to the Editorial Department at:
ggem@internet-today.co.uk

Win plant stamps with Royal Mail and The Glamorgan GEM

THE National Botanic Garden of Wales played host to the Welsh launch of Royal Mail's 'Plants' stamps, highlighting the dark future of endangered plants.

With a quarter of the world's 270,000 plants facing extinction, Royal Mail is issuing ten first class stamps featuring examples of our endangered plants, and readers of The Glamorgan GEM can win a presentation pack in this month's Royal Mail competition.

Kevin Lamb, director of the National Botanic Garden, said: "These stunning stamps illustrate beautifully exactly what is at risk in the natural world around us and why the conservation and research work here at the National Botanic Garden and other key institutions is so important."

Plants is the third in Royal Mail's Action for Species series, which examines the UK's endangered flora and fauna.

To enter this competition to win a presentation pack of these colourful stamps, simply answer this question:

Which of these is not a famous gardener?

***A)** Alan Titchmarsh,*
***B)** Charlie Dimmock,*
***C)** Gordon Brown.*

Answers on a postcard, marked 'Plant Stamps', to The Glamorgan GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL, to arrive no later than June 26.

No correspondence will be entered into and the judge's decision is final

GOOD LUCK!

Vale band on way to Dinas

FURTHER to their successful gig for the Dinas Powys branch of Tenovus at Christmas, the Vale of Glamorgan Band are returning to the parish hall on July 4, at 7.30pm, to promote their own concert.

Under the direction of conductor, David Short, they will play a wide selection of music, some of it associated with films such as *The Lion King* and *The Great Escape*.

On this occasion, the band's guests are the Serenity Choir, a female voice choir based in Cardiff. Their repertoire ranges from gospel to pop, classical to jazz and includes songs from musical shows.

They will be conducted by assistant director, Emma Height, a music graduate from Cardiff and accompanied by Christopher Andrews.

Tickets £5 each, available at the door; from the parish hall office; telephone 0777 095 1908; 02920 513315.

WHAT'S COOKING?

THE United Free Church is holding a cookery demonstration, followed by a summer supper at the UFC on Friday, June 19, at 7pm.

Tickets £8.50, including a fruit punch. Bring your own wine.

COURT STREET SURGERY

COURT Labour councillors Richard Bertin and Bronwen Brooks hold a street surgery, on June 19, in and around the O'Donnell Road area of Barry, from 6pm-7pm.

For further information, telephone Coun Bertin on 01446 736227.

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Cadoxton bowlers in a struggle to find their form

CADOXTON v WATTSTOWN CML2

CADOXTON started their League fixtures with a trip to Wattstown. The weather was nice but the result was awful!

There were a number of significant absentees from the team, but big improvements are needed if any good impact is to be made on the fixtures during the remainder of the season.

On Graham Brown's rink the game was tight in the first half, with only 11 shots scored in eleven ends, and a three shot deficit.

By the 15th the difference was just four.

However with lack of good bowls in the head, the tide could not be held any more and the last seven ends were lost, including a six on the penultimate.

Don Kuhnell had difficulties in keeping the score down, although his rink had led until the 8th.

Three losses followed but by the 14th the score was 10-11.

This was the stage when quality bowls were few, which enabled the opposing skip to take advantage by taking 15 shots in the next four ends which virtually ensured the points.

An unfit Viv Thurston was brought in to lead for Andrew Hatcher, due to lack of players. Unfortunately his play was nowhere near his normal standard. They went 15-1 down before a mini fight-back brought the score to 15-10, but only one single was added in the last six ends.

The rink skipped by Gary Jones was leading 5-4 on seven ends, but a five took away the initiative. By the 13th the difference had increased to 10. Two twos broke the run up but they failed to score in the remaining six ends.

Scores: J Sugden, W Vaughan, K Chedgzoy, G Brown – 7-25; H Hellyar, S Pycroft, L Cundliffe, D Kuhnell – 12-28 ; V Thurston, W Eadie, D Tuck, A Hatcher – 11-35; P Ellis, G Davies, J Davies, G Jones –11-27. **Final score: 41-115**.

CADOXTON v VICTORIA PARK CML2

CADOXTON'S unhappy run continued when they were comprehensively defeated by Victoria Park (Cardiff).

Only the rink skipped by Graham Garland managed a victory with Ivor Dunbar returning after a lay-off.

Scores: G Solomon, C Burgess, D Brook, B Sales – 9-31; G Powell, L Little, J Stewart, A Carpenter –16-21; R Doble, B Knight, I Robertson, M Curtis – 12-28; D Collard, I Dunbar, D Evans, G Garland – 21-14.

Final score: 60-77.

CADOXTON v ROMILLY – MUNRO CUP

THIS Munro Cup game took place at Romilly where Cadoxton only managed success on the rink skipped by captain Gary Jones.

Despite only winning eight of the ends, they were good wins, including a four, a three and a two, on two occasions, while the opposition were mainly singles.

Alan Carpenter's normal Munro Cup form deserted him when his rink only managed six winning ends against Alan Bryan, his opposite number.

There were not many bowls in the head to assist skip Don Kuhnell, who was always playing to cut down, while Brian Foscolo mainly had the much easier task of holding shots, when it was his turn.

The same pattern took place on Kelvin Chedgzoy's rink against Tony Freeman, during the last 10 ends, after he had taken a 6-3 advantage with 8 ends completed

Scores: G Solomon, G Davies, D Jones, G Jones 20-16; M Gershenon, A Burge, A Woolcock, B Gough. B Knight, J Stewart, M Curtis, A Carpenter 9-20 P Gershenson, G Whittaker, V McFarland, A Bryan. D Collard, D Evans, L Cundliffe, D Kuhnell 12 -28 R Harkus, P Hoad, M Doyle, B Foscolo. R Doble, S Pycroft, J Sugden, K Chedgzoy 10 -26 D Bannister, L Jones, C Geen, A Freeman. **Final score:** 51 - 90.

Junior Cavaliers take on St Fagans in exciting games

LLANTWIT Cavaliers under-13s and under-15s teams both took on St Fagans CC in recent matches, with some exciting cricket the end result.

The under-15s were hosted by St Fagans, and on winning the toss chose to bat under good, warm conditions. Captain Sam Pickford ensured a good start and was well supported by number four batsman Alex Harris, with both batsmen going on to retire with scores of 36 and 35 respectively.

Sam Walsh and Andrew Williams added some additional runs to ensure a useful target of 117-4 off 20 overs.

St Fagans got off to a slow start, with some excellent bowling from Llantwit resulting in a score of only 17 for 2 after five overs, including the prize wicket of Smith to a superb ball from Pickford.

Weatherall (38 retired) and Antoni swung the game back in favour of the hosts but the loss of three quick wickets to the bowling of Alex Harris almost won the game for Llantwit.

St Fagans reached the target in the last over with only two wickets to spare in a nail biting finish, especially for the home side, who were asking themselves all the questions, having been outplayed in some departments by Llantwit.

The under-13s were also hosted by St Fagans, where the host side won the toss and elected to bat, getting off to a solid start adding 80 for the first wicket, thanks mainly to Jeremy Lawlor (35 retired). Llantwit fielded a little too deep which helped the run rate to tick over.

However, some good catching from Jordan Bush and Daniel Evans helped to peg St Fagans back. This was aided by some good bowling from skipper Cameron Sleeth and Tom Clay, taking a wicket apiece. St Fagans went on to make a challenging 156 from their 20 overs.

The Cavaliers in response batted valiantly, scoring 94-8, with the bulk of the runs coming from Tomos Russell (30 no), Jordan Bush (12) and Joe Walsh (10). This was Tomos' highest score for the club, a milestone for him. Wickets were lost to three run outs suggesting an area for improvement.

TB

Romilly clinch a tense victory

BARRY Romilly Bowling Club travelled to Abertridwr Bowling Club on Saturday for the season's first match in the First Division.

Romilly won 94 shots to 77.

Dave Wright's rink of B Gough, R Harkus and G Cogbill led from start for a sparkling 32-9 win.

Richard Cowling's rink of H Jones, A Burge and P Gershenson had a tough game and were 5-12 down after nine ends.

They got going thereafter with some good scores and went on to win the rink 22-19.

Tony Freeman's rink of C Geen, G Eastment and K Westgate had a good start in their game and were 14-6 in front after just eight ends.

Abertridwr then rallied and scored a five on the 12th end to put them in front 15-17. Two ends later, Romilly scored a big six for a 21-18 lead.

From this point on the fight continued to the end and a 26-26 draw.

Mel Newman's rink of R Hewitson, D Bannister and M Doyle were 9-8 up after nine ends. However, the match changed when the Abertridwr skip eliminated most of Romilly's holding shots.

Mel's team lost the rink 14-23.

RH

100 per cent for Cowbridge tennis!

THE Ladies first team were at home to Radyr on Sunday and gained a comfortable 4-2 win, with Jenny Lord and Alison Kurobasa winning both their matches, and Gill Ridout and Janet Booth, and Tricia Jochem and Karen James, winning one.

Ladies from the second team travelled away to play Cardiff LTC on Thursday where they also had a 4-2 win; June Donagh and Jane Wilby winning two, Julie Couzans and Caroline Summers, and Charlotte Kurobasa and Jane Richards, winning one.

To complete a winning week all round, it was seven wins out of seven for the men's team with a 4-2 win at home to Alt-yr-yn.

Allen Duggan and Rhodri John were unbeaten, Huw Jenkins and Richard Feeley, and Paul Wilby and David Buick, winning one.

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DINAS POWYS SKATE PARK HOSTS BEST IN UK TALENT

HUNDREDS of people turned up at Dinas Powys Skate Park at Bryn-y-Don Playing Fields to watch some of the country's top skateboaders show off their skills.

A spokesman said: "Some of the best riders in the UK came to Dinas Powys and demonstrated skills on the half pipe, death box and flat.

"They included Jess Young, Joe Linsky and Skelley. Also in attendance was Dainton from Dirty Sanchez, but he was unable to compete due to a wrist injury."

CADOXTON BOWLS CLUB LADIES NEWS

Team recover to gain away win at Rhoose

THE evening league match at Cadoxton, June 10,was played against Millwood.

Rink one: Cadoxton – C Hope, P Davies, M Patterson, M O'Callaghan 11, Millwood – J Rogers, D Wyatt, J Davis, S Froud 26.

Millwood made an excellent start by scoring eight shots on the first five ends with Cadoxton scoring one only.

By scoring another five in the the next two ends it was difficult for Cadoxton to catch up.

Gaining seven on ends 13/14, sealed the win for Millwood.

Rink two: Cadoxton – P Bryant, N Clissett, D Evans, J Tuck 13, Millwood – J Mason, C Rich, I Dowling, F Luen 15.

This was a very even game the score being even at 13 all on end 16 of this 18 end match.

Millwood gained the win by taking the last two ends for one shot each.**Final score: Cadoxton 24, Millwood 41.**

THE next day in the Glamorgan League Rhoose ladies welcomed the Cadoxton ladies to their green.

Not only did they have to play a lady short due to illness, but Val played with a very painful foot. The ladies wish them both a speedy recovery.

Rink one: Cadoxton – P Bryant, T Parry, D Evans, J Tuck 23, Rhoose – D Baxter, Sue Dance V Lovering 9 (a quarter deducted).

Cadoxton ladies started off in fine style scoring 10 shots in the first four ends and continued to make headway throughout the game.

Rhoose scored 12 shots overall which was reduced to nine after a deduction of a quarter.

Rink two: Cadoxton – C Bentley, P Davies, A Rees, P Currie 14, Rhoose – M Dutton, S Wood, B Green G Watkins 10.

Cadoxton found it difficult to get going on the artificial green.

They didn't score until the fifth end but then gained five shots over the next four ends. It was very even scoring, between the teams, over the next 10 ends but Cadoxton took the lead after five shots on ends 14/17.

Rink three: Cadoxton – M Slee, J Watkins, N Clissett D Davies 19, Rhoose – S Slee, A Shears, J Hopkins B Wornham 13.

Cadoxton scored eight in the first seven ends. Rhoose took four shots on the next end and by end 11 the scores were equal at nine-all.

The next four ends were taken by Cadoxton also taking four on end 17 made it very difficult for Rhoose to catch up.

Final score: Cadoxton 56, Rhoose 32.

DM DAVIES

Income advice for groups

THE Vale Centre for Voluntary Services (VCVS) has arranged a free 'sustainable funding conference' supported by Unity Trust Bank, at the Barry YMCA Hub on Tuesday, June 23 from 10am-1pm to help local community groups identify ways to generate future income.

Expert speakers will run workshops on topics covering tax effective giving, trading and social enterprise, procurement and contracts, and loan finance.

For more information, contact Dave Edwards at VCVS on 01446 741706 or e-mail dave@valecvs.or.uk

NEWS FROM 372 BARRY SQUADRON AIR TRAINING CORPS

Cadets learn all about climbing from the inside

Vanessa Lazenburg abseiling.

RECENTLY, Air Cadets from 372 (Barry) Squadron, Air Training Corps, experienced the thrills of abseiling at Boulders indoor climbing centre, Cardiff.

The session was designed to give the cadets a taster of indoor climbing and abseiling and build their confidence in climbing and putting their trust in team members.

The Cadets were introduced to a basic climbing wall where they learnt the techniques of hand and foot holds; which they would be using later for the more challenging climbs ahead.

Once the Cadets were happy, they quickly moved onto the simplest 60-foot climbing wall, before abseiling back down, each climb they undertook becoming more challenging and technically more difficult.

After the basic climb, the Cadets progressed onto vertical climbs and climbs with a tricky overhang; testing their physical strength to the limit. Cadet Ryan Morse said: "Climbing was really cool; I enjoyed the climbing and the abseiling. The hardest part was the overhangs, which were really difficult so I was really chuffed when I completed it".

Cadets' training includes caving, camping, day walks, expeditions as well as kayaking.

This training and experience, encourages them to explore and appreciate the great outdoors; improve confidence and fitness, learn new skills and ultimately provide enjoyment mixed with excitement.

Cadets taking part were: Sophie Gildersleve, Eloise Johnson, Sian Davies, Jess Peters, Luke Evans, Rhys Horton, Titus Tuttle, Sam & Vanessa Lazenbury.

If you have a spirit for adventure, 372 (Barry) Squadron has vacancies for boys and girls between 13-18 years old. The squadron parade on Mondays and Wednesdays (7pm-9.30pm), behind Adams Funeral Parlour; telephone the Squadron on 01446 747734 or email 372@aircadets.org for more information about joining or the Air Training Corps.

Ryan Morse.

JASON HORTON

CAMERA CLUB HOSTS TROPHIES EVENING

Young picked out for special praise by Mayor of the Vale

SATURDAY June 6 saw Barry Camera Club host the Barrian Cup and Dave Cowdrey Trophy for the 14th time at the St. Francis Millennium Hall in Barry.

After an introduction by Barry Camera Club chairman, Steve Durbin, the event was opened by the Mayor of the Vale, Coun Emlyn Williams.

He commented that it was nice to see some youthful faces in the audience and that he would like to see some a more positive view of young people, as they always seemed to get a bad press.

The judge of the event, Graeme Hodgkiss, agreed and said that members of photographic clubs should encourage their children and grandchildren to take up photography or the art form could well die out at club level.

Twenty five camera clubs from around Wales and the west of England entered photographs into the Barrian Cup competition and around 90 people from the clubs turned up on the day to watch the judging.

As usual, the standard of photography was very high, but Neath and District Camera Club took an early lead, scoring maximum points with their first two pictures, 'Tree Birds' and 'Jenna by the River'. Llanelli was not far behind, though, their first picture, 'First Snow' scoring maximum and their second 'Old Friends' just one point under maximum.

After the break, the other clubs started to fight back with some consistently good pictures, and towards the finish it started to get very close, with three or four clubs in the running.

The competition was finally decided by the last-but-one picture to be judged, with Llanelli just edging out Gwynfa by 87 points to 86. Neath and District was third with 82 points, and Backwell Camera Club was fourth with 81 points.

With the winner of the Barrian Cup having been decided, Graeme Hodgkiss went on to judge the Dave Cowdrey Trophy.

He decided on the picture that had given Neath and District maximum points early on in the Barrian Cup competition, 'Tree Birds' by Terry Goss, which he had said 'oozed quality'.

The trophies were presented by the Vale Mayor and the Mayoress, Mrs Joan Williams. Club secretary Arthur Mallet accepted the Barrian Cup on behalf of the Llanelli Photographic Society.

The pictures that scored the maximum 20 points in the competition were:

Tree Birds – Neath and District P.S.

Jenna by the River – Neath and District P.S.

Jockeying for Position – Gwynfa C.C.

Heron at Forest Farm – Cardiff C.C.

Enigma – Cardiff C.C.

I Wonder if She'll Come – Rhondda C.C.

The Kitchen – Backwell C.C.

First Snow – Llanelli P.S.

GEOFF FOWLER

ABOVE LEFT: Coun Emlyn Williams presents the Barrian Cup to Arthur Mallett of the Llanelli Club. ABOVE RIGHT: The Mayoress, Mrs Joan Williams presents the Dave Cowdrey Trophy to Terry Goss.

High Street Traders Association, Barry

Eric the High Street Clown has been messing around.

Eric has visited all the shops listed below and left a picture from his scrapbook that looks out of place. Can you help the High Street Traders find the missing pictures? The shops are located in **High Street, Broad Street & Island Road.** Can you locate all the misplaced items and fill in the form below . . . **GOOD LUCK!**

Entries to be received before 7th July, in any of the shops listed below.

Prizes: 1st £20 Voucher; 2nd £15 Voucher; 3rd £10 Voucher to be spent at any of the shops listed below.

Shop	Misplaced Object
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High Street Post Office	
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Cubana's Bar and Grill	
Look to Let	
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Vale plus/Nova	
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COWBRIDGE ADDS ON SOME EXTRAS, ALL GEARED TO THE SUMMER SEASON

COWBRIDGE is welcoming visitors this year to the new improved 2009 version – with all the features visitors know and love, but a host of added extras...

The popular features are all still going strong, including the wide variety of distinctive retail outlets, the elegant and relaxed ambience, the chance to wander around the nooks and crannies of the old market town, and the huge choice of places to eat, whether it be quiet cafes, welcoming pubs, or stylish restaurants.

In fact, when it comes to eating out in Cowbridge, there is clear evidence to back up that old proverb 'every cloud has a silver lining'.

The credit crunch has led to a price war among the local eating establishments – a price war that well and truly buries Cowbridge's reputation as being 'a little on the pricey side'.

Wander around the town and you will find special offers galore for lunchtime and early evening dining, with two and three-course menus (and sometimes four or five!) all available at bargain prices.

Whether your preference is for Italian, Continental, traditional local fare, Indian or any other style, Cowbridge's restauranteurs are not sitting back and bemoaning the economic slowdown, they are working to keep old customers happy and attract new ones.

Something else new this year is actually, something of a surprise. It was a year ago that Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, declared the town's Physic Garden officially open.

At the time, the guiding lights behind the garden warned that, because the plants would be native to the UK from olden times, some of the more brightly-coloured varieties would not be present.

The accent would be on plants that had been used for medicinal purposes, rather than a technicolour showpiece. Nevertheless, the classical layout of the garden proved to be a big success.

However, it looks as if the Physic Trust was being unduly modest, because the garden has turned out this year to be a riot of colour, and is proving to be a really popular feature in the town.

In fact, more than 80,000 people visited the Physic Garden during the year following that official opening.

Trustee Mike Meredith said that although admission to the garden is free, they carry out exercises in checking numbers attending.

"We reckon that we had at least 80,000 people from last May until now," he said. "And that's a conservative estimate.

"We are seeing large numbers of people coming in, especially at lunchtime when they bring their sandwiches and just sit and enjoy the peaceful surroundings.

"We are also attracting people of all ages which is good. People are saying that the garden is the best thing to happen to Cowbridge since the war."

The garden is now more or less a finished masterpiece, although some fine tuning of the planting is taking place.

It is maintained by a rota of volunteers who give up their Thursdays to keep the garden in tip-top condition.

They are organised by Jackie Thorne, who is a paid officer, but the funding for this runs out in October. The garden will be run by the Garden Group from now on.

In fact, the project has been such a success, that the same trust is now putting together plans to make a similar transformation of the adjoining Old Hall Gardens.

Details of the proposed plans can be seen in the foyer of Cowbridge Library.

ABOVE:
The Physic Garden offers a colourful and tranquil setting.

ABOVE:
Eating out in the glorious sunshine is always that bit more special when in Cowbridge.

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Cowbridge's Physic Garden

In two years since its official opening Cowbridge Physic Garden goes from strength to strength, now attracting more than 80,000 visits annually.

Unique in Wales, the garden gained royal patronage last year when the Duchess of Cornwall became our Patron.

With the endorsement of Visit Wales, Cowbridge's Physic Garden is an outstanding example of imaginative development fashioned from the derelict remains of the grammar school's former kitchen gardens.

Organised and managed almost exclusively by volunteers the project depends entirely on the goodwill and support of the public of Cowbridge and the wider Vale.

All the plants in the garden pre-date the year 1800, reflecting the early development of medicines, many of which may be seen in the 12 parterres that illustrate how plants were first used scientifically to treat ailments affecting all parts of the body.

Thus the physic garden has a unique and special place not only for the connoisseur but also for the amateur including those who take simple pleasure in its calming tranquillity – a true jewel in the centre of the town open **364 days per year** free of charge, though donations toward our upkeep are gratefully received and deeply appreciated.

Church Street, COWBRIDGE, Vale of Glamorgan
www.cowbridgephysicgarden.org.uk

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Cowbridge loyalty scheme will reward local shoppers

A LOYALTY card scheme is being introduced by Cowbridge Chamber of Trade. It is hoped that it will be launched in September – in time to boost the pre-Christmas trade.

The final details are still being discussed but chamber secretary Emma Hartman of High Society said that the chamber had a number of exciting ideas to raise the profile of the town but the loyalty scheme is the main thing in hand at the moment.

"We have been looking at other schemes run by places like Monmouth. It will also benefit our local schools."

The chamber will invite residents and regular shoppers to pay £5 to sign up for the scheme. The loyalty cards will be sold through local schools, which will keep a proportion of that selling price for their own funds. The rest will go to the chamber to cover the setting up and running costs of the scheme.

Everyone who joins will get a starter pack, which will list the participating shops. It will be up to each business to decide what discount or offer to make available.

Eleri Long of Amici is the person working on this scheme for the chamber and she said that the 'card' will actually be a key fob, which shoppers can produce when they do their shopping.

"It will be a one-off charge and the fobs will be available from shops and from the schools. Traders who take part will be able to put details of what they are offering on the chamber website.

"Stickers will be placed in the windows of the participating shops and it will probably be called the Cowbridge Loyalty Scheme or something along those lines."

They had been in touch with traders in Oswestry, where a scheme has been running very successfully.

"It has increased footfall and trade. It has grown to a big scheme with three towns joining in. We hope that once it is up and running, we will also see the benefits here".

Ms Long said it will be up to each shop to decide what discount to offer: "We cannot have a blanket approach as businesses are so different. We could have a café offering something off a latte, for example, or a clothes shop offering a discount.

"It will be up to each trader to decide. The aim is to encourage people to shop in Cowbridge and support the town."

The chamber is also considering inviting a marketing student to help promote the town and they are also revamping the chamber website.

Ms Hartman said shops, restaurants and other businesses had responded positively to the credit crunch by becoming more competitive and offering customers better value.

"I see people offering special deals on meals and eating out, for example. The beauty of Cowbridge is that most of the businesses are locally owned and are run by their owners.

"That means that they can respond decisively to any situation and can be far more flexible than chain stores where decisions could be taken hundreds of miles away," she concluded.

Hairdressers battle it out in style for the Joshua charity

TWO Cowbridge hairdressers are turning their creative talents to fundraising – as part of the Haircut 100 challenge in aid of The Joshua Foundation.

On Saturday (June 20) salons from around south Wales, including Hair Business and Fich + Ramous in Cowbridge, will be devoting their day to raising money for the children's cancer charity.

Haircut 100, the brainchild of chief executive of The Joshua Foundation, Sarah Cornelius, encourages hairdressers to turn their creative talents to fundraising and help to raise vital cash for the charity.

Sarah Cornelius said: "The idea of the day is to encourage hairdressers to have fun, while also raising money for a good cause. Salons from across Cardiff have signed up to the challenge day but the aim is to get 100 salons on board.

"They are being sponsored to wear fancy dress costumes for the day and going that extra mile for their customers, in the hope that they will donate money to the charity.

"We always emphasise the FUN in fundraising and just want everyone to enjoy themselves while helping a great cause.

"We are currently trying to raise money for our annual London Experience for 50 families of children with cancer."

The Joshua Foundation was created in September 1998 to provide holidays and experiences for children and their families where the child is diagnosed with terminal cancer.

The Joshua Foundation celebrated its 10th anniversary on December 4, 2008 .

In just one decade, it has raised £5 million and helped more than 250 children.

For further information, or to enter the competition, visit www.thejoshuafoundation.co.uk or telephone 029 20 757020.

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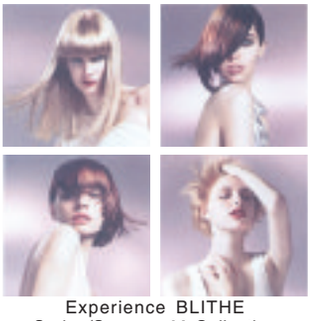

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Flower festival will draw in visitors from far and wide

IT will be a case of saying it with flowers in a big way at Holy Cross Church next week. The church Flower Festival, which is held every few years, is taking place from June 24-29 and promises to attract visitors from all over south Wales.

The high quality of the floral exhibits draws in an expert audience of flower arrangers from a wide area, as well as local people who just enjoy the spectacle and colour.

Cowbridge is always filled with flowers in the summer with tubs, pots and baskets in profusion in the streets but the efforts of everyone involved in the festival add that extra je ne sais quoi to the town.

The festival is launched on Wednesday, June 24, with a celebration of flowers, a demonstration of flower arranging with hymns.

It is led by flower-arranger Bob Harris, of Gloucester, who will make the final five arrangements to complete the decoration of the church.

Mr Harris has a large following and people will be most anxious to see his techniques. He gave a demonstration at the last flower festival in 2006. Admission to this event is £5.

From Thursday, the exhibition will be open to the public. The church is open from 10am-6pm and refreshments will be served by church members throughout the day, Admission is £3 with children free.

Church warden Pam Roberts said that the floral arrangements will be made by a variety of local organisations, flower club members, businesses and church members.

"We have a very strong flower club in Cowbridge and many of our ladies in the church are also members of this. We make an allowance from our flower fund to anyone interested in doing a display of up to £40, although not everyone takes this.

"The money is used to buy the flowers needed for the display. Some people buy flowers while others may find suitable blooms and foliage in their gardens. It's up to each individual how they do it."

She said that church members raise money for the flower fund throughout the year and it was intended to ensure that people could provide quality displays and give them a helping hand with the costs.

Mrs Roberts said that the church has a band of very dedicated people who mastermind the flower festival. "It is a lot of hard work and we only have the energy to do it every few years.It takes a lot of effort."

On Friday, the exhibition ends at 5pm as a concert is being staged as part of the festival in the church. Cantorion Pontyclun (Pontyclun Ladies Choir) will be performing at 7.30pm. Tickets are £7.50.

On Saturday, the festival takes place from 10am-6pm. On Sunday, the exhibition is open from 12 noon-6pm but at 4pm, a choral evensong will be held as part of the festival. This will be followed by an auction of the floral exhibits.

Trips are expected during the week from flower clubs throughout south Wales and the theme of the festival is very appropriate - Say It With Flowers.

ABOVE: An image from last year's Flower Festival.

All the profits from the event will go towards the Holy Cross Restoration Fund. "People look forward to this festival," added Mrs Roberts. "It is extremely popular and enjoyed by lots of people including those who have nothing to do with the world of flower arranging."

The refreshments are being provided by church members from throughout the parish who serve on a rota. Homemade cakes and scones will be served, along with tea and coffee.

Cowbridge architect offers expert advice

COWBRIDGE based architect Don Mitchell is offering local homeowners a chance to get some expert home advice, while raising funds to support Shelter, the housing and homelessness charity.

Don Mitchell, based on the High Street, is taking part in *Architect in the House (AITH),* a partnership between the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) and Shelter.

The scheme gives people across the Vale the opportunity to book an hour-long consultation with an architect to discuss anything from a loft conversion to a major renovation project.

In return, homeowners are asked to donate a minimum £40 to Shelter, helping people whose lives are being damaged by bad housing.

Don Mitchell said: "Whether you've been considering an improvement to your home but haven't looked into it, or have just never thought of using an architect, this is the scheme for you.

"Architect in the House offers a first step towards making a positive change to your home, while helping less fortunate families trapped in bad housing to find and keep a home of their own.

"This is a great opportunity to see what an architect can do for you and your home; creating a totally tailored solution for your living needs, and not just the drawings for your new home or alteration.

Whether your home is big or small, we want you to get involved."

The Council of Mortgage Lenders predicts that 75,000 homes in the UK will have been repossessed by the end of 2009.

With nearly two million families awaiting social housing, and a chronic lack of affordable homes to rent, Shelter's services for people in need will be stretched to the limit in the months ahead.

Architect in the House is now in its 13th year, and has raised more than £800,000 to date.

The money goes towards helping one in seven children in Britain who are living in bad housing, directly improving their education, health and happiness.

To find out how an architect can breathe new life into your home sign up to www.architectinthehouse.org.uk until July 1.

Architects interested in volunteering their services can also sign up at www.architectinthehouse.org.uk.

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Sunrise Renewables say docks are 'best location' for biomass plant in the town

Sunrise Renewables (Barry), which wants to build a biomass plant in the town, insists that the docks area is the best possible location for such a development.

A Sunrise Renewables spokesman told The GEM"The location is ideally situated to provide heat and power for the remaining 2,000 homes planned for the town's Waterfront development.

"The infrastructure necessary to provide these services can be installed without any disruption, and its presence will help these homes meet the new exacting sustainability targets demanded for new residential developments."

The spokesman pointed out that the plant would also provide electricity for the National Grid, other homes in the area or the local authority if required.

He went on: "The plant's location is at least 360 metres away from the nearest existing housing in Dock View Road – almost quarter of a mile.

"There are a number of similar developments elsewhere in the UK including ones at Hull, St. Helens, Middleton, Caernarfon, Wellingborough, and Widmerpool where housing is significantly nearer the site.

"The plant is designed to have minimal visual intrusion; it will look like an industrial building and its site is well below the line of Dock View Road.

"Currently, the site is classified as being brown field, is contaminated and has an unsightly industrial use."

A Vale Council planning committee was due to discuss the issue of the plant at a meeting today (Thursday, June 18).

Dr Ian Johnson, the Plaid candidate for the Vale, said he had written to the council to express his reservations over the proposed plant.

He said: "The officers at the Vale have recommended accepting the plans, with 27 conditions attached.

"However, I do not believe that these conditions in any way meet the very valid concerns of local residents about the impact of this plant.

"My letter draws attention to 13 different issues that have been raised either in conversation with local residents or at my public meeting with Jill Evans MEP at which both local residents and environmental campaigners such as Vale Friends of the Earth attended and presented their worries about the plans put forward."

Vale councillor Chris Elmore, who is opposed to the siting of the plant, said: "In the report issued by officers at the planning committee in May, it clearly states that the 'site is located no greater than 250 metres from the existing residential properties on Dock View Road which overlook the site'.

"I am out most evenings with residents who are collecting more signatures from householders who have concerns and are opposed to the development going ahead as it is so close to housing.

He added: "I am also concerned that the plant, if approved, will have a detrimental effect on Barry and in bringing any future investment in the form of retail and eateries to the Waterfront."

'INSPECTORS DID NOT LOOK AT THE PAST PAPERWORK...'

Bridgend Borough Council admits to failings after report into e-coli outbreak

REPORT by JAYNE ISAAC

THREE more environmental health inspectors are to be employed by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) in the wake of the e-coli outbreak and inquiry.

The BCBC cabinet has accepted a wide-ranging report and its recommendations, which form the council's response to the findings of the e-coli inquiry.

The report, which went before cabinet on Tuesday, outlined the recommendations made by the inquiry into food inspection procedures, and lays out how the authority has responded to them.

The inquiry was set up to look into the widespread e-coli food poisoning that broke out in south Wales in 2005, and resulted in the death of five-year-old Mason Jones.

Contaminated meat was served at school dinners in a number of south Wales schools.

The report states that its purpose is to ensure that the authority plays its part in ensuring that the risk of another such outbreak is minimised.

The report points out that the public inquiry found that the outbreak occurred because of food hygiene failures at the premises of John Tudor and Son in Bridgend, resulting from cross contamination of the food poisoning organism e-coli 0157 from raw to cooked meat.

The report states that the responsibility to prevent this cross contamination fell on William Tudor.

It goes on: "The inquiry found that documentation in the form or records was falsified and environmental health officers were lied to about practices, such as the use of vacuum packing of meat. This hampered the effectiveness of inspections.

"That said, in the opinion of the inquiry, environmental health inspections did not assess the effectiveness of the business's management of food safety as well as they could or should have done.

"This was hampered by insufficient systems for alerting other environmental health officers to issues or concerns for subsequent inspections, the deceit of Mr Tudor and the failure of procurement (purchasing) departments to notify environmental health officers of the numerous food complaints that they had received in connection with meat supplied by John Tudor and Son."

The report says that flaws in the firm's hygiene plan should have been picked up and inspections failed "systematically" to assess the accuracy and effectiveness of the underlying documentation.

The report says that the process under which meat contracts were awarded by the council, and in joint contracts with other local authorities, was "seriously flawed" in relation to food safety. The system for recording complaints was also seriously flawed.

Since the outbreak, new procedures to flag up concerns at previous inspections have been introduced.

Before premises are inspected, the paperwork relating to the last two inspections is now checked.

The report added: "While the inquiry accepts that inspectors were lied to, were not supported by the provision of information regarding complaints, had taken the lead in developing proper procedures for inspection and were praised for the work undertaken in outbreak control, it is clear there were systematic failures overall."

The report states that there was direct criticism from the inquiry which was personal to those staff who were not alert to warning signs in respect of machinery and documentation – which it is felt they should have been.

The issue of dual use of equipment, for both cooked and raw meats, was considered by the inquiry and it came to the view that they cannot be effectively microbiologically cleaned between uses.

But until a blanket ban on the dual use of such equipment is brought in by law, the council will not be able to enforce this.

However, officers can check the cleaning procedures and do microbiological testing if necessary.

New procedures where meat is bought by education authorities and other public bodies are being brought in, and these include a clear complaints recording, monitoring, and action process.

The report recommended that inspection staff should undergo further training and development, and this training should apply to all staff, including managers.

The council claims that there have been significant improvements to its processes since the outbreak.

Paper-based systems have been developed to ensure "Red flagging" and similar work is under way on an electronic system.

The cabinet heard that it will cost an extra £115,000 a year to employ three additional inspectors and other costs, including training and equipment, means that a total extra cost of £161,776 has to be found.

The cabinet has agreed to provide this extra money and to monitor progress in the implementation of these recommendations.

Council leader Mel Nott said he wanted the scrutiny committee to also monitor progress of the action plan and make recommendations to cabinet in respect of further requirements from the Welsh Assembly Government, or other regulatory bodies.

Coun Nott said that it was important to remember that a child lost his life as a result of this outbreak, and others were, and remain, severely affected.

"While the inquiry placed the blame for this outbreak on John Tudor & Son, this authority was also criticised and we made a pledge to the public to bring this public report to cabinet.

"I said at the time that we owed it to Mason Jones to learn lessons from this outbreak, and to do all we can to ensure that this does not happen again," Coun Nott concluded.

What's On and Where

Blood donors

THE Welsh Blood Service will hold two donor sessions in Cowbridge next week.

Sunday, June 21 (10am-4pm) and Monday, June 22 (10am-6pm), both at Cowbridge Leisure Centre.

For further information telephone 0800 252266 or visit www.welshblood.org.uk.

Chrysanths AGM

BARRY & District Chrysanthemum Society's annual general meeting takes place on June 23, at 6pm, at Salem Baptist Church hall, Beryl Road, Barry.

Tax help

ON June 25, Inland Revenue tax help desks will be at the Healthy Eating Shop, Age Concern, Holton Road, Barry (10am-12pm and Room 2 ground floor, Council Offices, West House, Penarth (1pm-3pm).

For further information contact Julie John, Cardiff Tax Enquiry Centre, Ty-Glas, Llanishen, Cardiff, CF14 5FN; telephone 02920 326506.

Christian musical

ON Friday, June 26, a Christian Musical is being staged at arry Memorial Hall.

Rock, the story of Simon Peter was written by Roger Jones under the Christian Music Ministries.

A local choir, trained by Dot Connell, will be joined by a similar choir from Pontypool for the performance.

Roger Jones will conduct an will bring along dancers, soloists and musicians. Doors open at 7pm; tickets £6.50.

Cowbridge Thirds meet their nemesis

THE Cowbridge thirds match with Port Talbot produced runs galore but sadly, no victory for Cowbridge, despite totalling 226 for their innings.

There were several solid scores, Jon Brazier 24, Gethin Davies 26, Nat Eliot-Green 17 and David Webb 28 not out, but the real hero was Richard Owen with 40 including three successive sixes high into the trees bordering the cattle market.

Remarkably, no cars were dented and each ball was recovered. The total was achieved at 100 runs an hour, but therein lay nemesis.

Play was resumed after tea and the annual team photograph. At first, the omens were good, with the Port Talbot number one being superbly caught by James Lister-Sims at deep square leg off Nat Eliot-Green, who quickly added two more wickets.

There then developed the sort of partnership that is always possible on the school pitch. The next two batsmen scored 32 and 92 and, although some heads went down, the fielding was enlivened by a superb run out by Ellis Davies and another two excellent catches, one athletically by George Gibson and one with startling nonchalance by George Brown.

Suddenly, it appeared that Cowbridge may yet win, but the tail enders hung on and Port Talbot finished with two wickets in hand. Another 10 runs and the result would have been reversed.

WE welcome your news, views and sports reports.
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SPORTS NEWS FROM COWBRIDGE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

Under-15 cricketers are too strong for plucky Cathays School opposition

COWBRIDGE kicked off their Cardiff and Vale under-15 Cup run with a comfortable win over a spirited Cathays School.

Deciding to bat, captain Joel Gehler sent in openers, Will Antoni, year-9 (45 runs) and Tom Francis (26 runs) who produced a commanding 71 partnership.

It was skipper Gehler who was next to take the field, showing his international class with an impressive 39 not out. Alex Kurobasa hit a steady 21 before being caught from some quality Cathays spin bowling.

Beth Moorcraft batted for the final over and looked confident at the crease finishing two not out.

Cathays innings was a short-lived affair. Jack Davies 2-21 off four overs, Moorcraft 1-8 off two overs, Gehler two maiden overs with two wickets. **Final score: Cowbridge 158-5, Cathays 62-all out.**

It was a good all-round display from the players, who will look to progress in the next round.

ATHLETICS

FOUR Cowbridge teams competed in the first round of the Knock Out Athletics cup in Jenner Park on Thursday, June 4.

The afternoon got off to a flying start for the Cowbridge athletes, winning seven out of the eight hurdles races. This fine form continued throughout the course of the competition, enabling Cowbridge to run in the following first place results:

Under-14 boys

First in A competition: H Thomas – hurdles 12.8; G Griffiths – long jump 4.64; C Brace – 800m 2.37.

First in B competition: W Rosser – hurdles 14.7; J Whittingham – 200m 28.6; C Powell – long jump 4.19; R Cogan – discus 18.00; R Elms – 800m 2.42; J Whittingham – javelin 27.68.

Under-16 boys

First in A competition: J Williams – hurdles 12.9; J Laidlaw – 200m 25.4; O Beamen – 1500m 4.46; L Hopkins – discus 24.80; J Thomas – high jump 1.50; J Laidlaw – triple jump 11.23.

First in B competition: L Jerwood – hurdles 14.2; J Davis – 1500m 4.55; S Street – 100m 12.8; J Esquirol – 800m –2.27; J Williams – High jump 1.50.

Under-14 girls

First in A competition: R John – 200m 30.0; L Whitehouse – 100m 14.0; R John –- long jump 3.77; J Carpenter – 800m 2.58; M Boxall –- shot 7.12.

First in B competition: A Wallis – hurdles 13.8; C Allin –- 200m 31.9; H Jones –- discus 14.01; N Edwards – 800m 3.04; I Armour – shot 6.84.

Under-16 girls

First in A competition: M Williams – hurdles 14.3; B Moorcraft – shot 7.94; K Bradbury– javelin 21.59.

First in B competition: G Jackson – hurdles 15.0; J Hayes –- shot 7.79; G Jackson – javelin 19.87.

In addition, the under-14 girls also won their relay race. As a result of such strong team performances, the under-14 girls team have qualified for the 'A' Cup Final on June 16 and the under-16 girls, under-16 boys and under-14 boys have qualified for the 'B' Cup Final on June 18.

We wish all the athletes luck in the next round of their competition.

Volunteers go on beach clean up

GRADUATES from npower's power station in Aberthaw have adopted a stretch of coast and spent a day carrying out a local beach clean, under guidelines by the Marine Conservation Society (MCS).

They went on a litter picking mission, helping to protect wildlife in the area and supporting the MCS's campaign for cleaner seas.

Niall Moroney, team leader from npower, said: "The MCS has shown us that we can all do our part in protecting our beaches. Our work today mirrors our commitment to caring for the environment, keeping our beaches clean and safe for the next generation."

Out and About with The GEM

This is one Hangover that is worth suffering through!

THE stag party, or bachelor party as it is known to our American cousins, is a right of passage that all soon-to-be-married men have to endure.

My own personal stag experience involved going paintballing, and watching the bridegroom being 'shot' over and over, simply because it was his stag – which saw us ending the night in a less than salubrious Swansea nightspot, where the local males looked only slightly more intimidating than the females.

On the big screen, these parties have been a minefield of comedy, films such as the aptly titled *Bachelor Party* wringing the comedy from the drunken shenanigans that take place.

The Hangover is the latest film to do this, telling how three friends (Bradley Cooper, Ed Helms, and spell check nightmare Zach Galifianakis) not only manage to lose the groom (Justin Bartha) two days before his wedding, but also how a stripper (Heather Graham), a baby, a missing tooth and a tiger belonging to Mike Tyson fit into a lost night.

The trio have to find the groom and work out just what exactly happened to them in Las Vegas...

Many of us have had a night where they can't quite remember what happened, with only themselves and the demon drink to blame for it.

Mix this with four men on a bachelor party and you have a raucous recipe for comedy that sits firmly on the bawdy side.

The Hangover doesn't fail to deliver on this premise, resulting in a film that is hugely hilarious and thankfully devoid of any third act, 'dealing-with-the-consequences' weight that often cuts the best comedies off in their prime.

Instead, writers Jon Lucas and Scott Moore are more concerned with fashioning a film whose only intention is to make you laugh hard, something they achieve in spades.

They are helped by superb direction from Todd Phillips and the efforts of a cast little-known but certainly capable of delivering the laughs; you could see the likes of Will Ferrell and Ben Stiller starring in this, but the film benefits from not being saddled with star names, allowing the comedy to come naturally from performances and situations.

Leading the field, performance-wise, is Zach Galifianakis, who imbues the stereotypical 'weird guy' character with some wonderful touches.

Whether it's his man-bag, his dubious dress sense, or his Rainman-esque card counting abilities, Galifianakis makes the character more than just the usual range of tics and personality; hopefully, this will be a way into wider acclaim for an excellent comedian.

Bradley Cooper and Ed Helms offer more than capable support, the latter impressive as the put-upon man shaking off the straitjacket of his girlfriend to have fun, even if it means losing a tooth in the process.

The former does the laconic charm of an Owen Wilson effortlessly, chalking up another good turn for an actor due to break out sooner rather than later.

With the likes of Heather Graham, Jeffrey Tambor and Ken Jeong all offering up excellent support, the humour does sometimes feel a touch lowbrow, but it certainly doesn't smack of straining for laughs.

Director Todd Phillips, having sat in the chair of the likes of *Old School* and other comedies of that ilk, is perfectly at home here. *Old School* is perhaps the best reference point here, sharing with *The Hangover* the way males behave when in their own company, throwing off the shackles of adult life for another chance to revisit their youth.

The director certainly makes the most of the comparison, directing with the same verve and ingenuity that made that film so successful – and not in the style of his most disappointing foray behind the camera, 2006's *School For Scoundrels*, where he tried Xeroxing the more grosser elements of his comedies in the hope it would paper over the cracks. Instead, *The Hangover* is the work of a director refreshed and rekindled with the spirit of making films that entertain and get you laughing, and that it most certainly does.

VERDICT - Maintaining its humour from start to finish, The Hangover is, without doubt, one of the best comedies of recent times.

Winning performances from the cast, including the scene-stealing antics of Zach Galifianakis, coupled with a screenplay that prefers comedy over moralising, means that this is a hangover that is well worth suffering through! *Recommended.*

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

Handel's Water Music at St Donats Art Centre

ABOVE: The Welsh Baroque Orchestra, who will be performing at St Donats.

THE Welsh Baroque Orchestra has chosen a superb location (St Donats castle) to celebrate Handel, with one of his best-loved pieces, *the Water Music* on June 21.

The concert also includes Bach's *First Brandenburg Concerto*, and a new flute concerto by Andrew Wilson-Dickson, who directs the concert.

The concert starts at 3pm and tickets are available on 01446 799104.

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Choirs in the Castle provide a special evening

THE 'Choirs in the Castle' evening at Coity Castle was blessed with fine weather, and an excellent crowd gathered to listen.

Afterwards, organiser Ifor Davies told The GEM that it had been "the most successful yet" with the biggest audience so far. He said that it was too early to say how much the evening had raised, because money was still coming in, but the proceeds would go to Bridgend Young Carers.

Apart from the choirs pictured, there were contributions from Maesteg Male Voice Choir, Cantirian Pontyclun, Pencoed and District Choral Society and soloist Daniel White.

ABOVE: Organiser Mr Ifor Davies.

Maesteg Ladies Choir.

Bridgend Male Voice Choir

ABOVE: The 'Sounds Familiar' group from Porthcawl

'This singing is hard work!'

Photos by MANDY THOMAS
(Available for purchase, telephone 07974 518347)
www.mandythomasphotography.co.uk

Ceri's car wash aims to boost Fire Service charity funds

A MISS Wales contestant will be out washing cars for charity in Bridgend next weekend at the town fire station.

Ceri Booth (Miss Rhondda Cynon Taff 2009 and a Miss Wales 2009 finalist) will be at the station on Saturday, June 27, from 11am to 4pm, raising cash for The Joshua Foundation and the Fire Fighters Charity.

Ceri told The GEM: "All Miss Wales finalists are challenged to raise as much cash for charity as possible, and I set myself a target of £5,000."

So far, she has raised £4,900, and £3,600 of this was raised through a sky dive which she organised.

The sky dive took place on Sunday, June 7, with 25 people taking part.

She hopes that this car wash will take her well past her target.

Ceri is one of the hot tips to win the 2009 Miss Wales title.

Ceri, aged 22 (pictured right) gained a BSc first class honours degree at Cardiff University, after straight As at both AS level and A level, a merit diploma in copywriting and nine A*/A grades at GCSE level.

The Miss Wales 2009 grand final takes place in Cardiff's International Arena on July 18, where 65 girls will compete for the crown with three glitzy catwalk rounds.

Presentation night at Porthcawl Athletic

PORTHCAWL Athletic recently held its annual presentation night at the Hi-Tide Inn, where the club celebrated another successful year.

The club fields a total of 23 football teams, and has a squad of 52 who play for the Mermaids – a netball team for girls aged seven to 11.

(See next week's GEM for more photographs.)

PHOTOGRAPHS BY KEITH E MORGAN

ABOVE: The under-9 Oranges, who are managed by David Watkins.

ABOVE: Josh Price was under-18 clubman of the year.

ABOVE: Club chairman Kerry Marlow with Joanna Smith, who took the ladies player of the year award.

ABOVE: The under-10 Whites, who are managed by Steve Cobley.

ABOVE: The under-12s girls with their loyalty awards.

ABOVE: Tony Ulberini, the Porthcawl Athletic boys club leader.

ABOVE: Andrew Palmer was presented with his Welsh under-16 rugby cap by Coun Rosemary Deere.

ABOVE: Ben Clarke receives his Welsh under-18 football cap.

ABOVE: Jordan Pugh was the under-18 most improved player of the year.

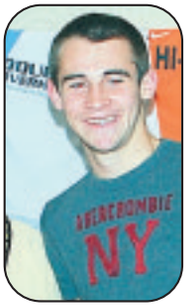
ABOVE: The under-14s captain Lewis Tonner receives the 'team of the year' award from Porthcawl Mayor, Coun Rosemary Deere.

ABOVE: Scott Jones receives the award for under-18 player of the year.

ABOVE: Mike Croft was 'committee person of the year'.

LEFT: Shauna Davies was the girls' under-14 player of the year.

RIGHT: Andrew Palmer was capped by Wales at under-18 level.



ABOVE: Manager John Young and the under-14s girls football team.

ABOVE: Carl Heffy was capped at Welsh under-16 level at football.

ABOVE: Ben Clarke with the South Wales Youth Knock Out Cup.

CARDIFF & THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN SCHOOLS' ATHLETICS ASSOCIATION ROUND-UP

Bro Morgannwg girls claim fourth title in a row!

Words: PETER MORRIS
Photographs: IAN DIXON

AFTER the disappointment of failing to retain their two Middle titles, the pupils from Bro Morgannwg bounced back at the Cardiff & the Vale Schools junior championships for pupils in year-8 and year-9.

The Barry school retained the girls' title for the fourth consecutive year.

In the boys' section, they were initially placed second behind the all-powerful Cardiff High team but, after sportingly losing 17 points after declaring that the winner of the walk, listed as Bro Morgannwg, was not from their school, they dropped to third behind Radyr.

Three of the pupils, who showed promise over the country last winter, claimed endurance titles.

Caitlin Bryant (The Cathedral School), the Cardiff & Vale Schools under-15 cross-country champion for the last two years, won the 1500 metres in a close fought race with Clare Horwood (Radyr) while year-9 Matthew Edwards (Barry Comprehensive) underlined how much he has improved by taking the boys 1500 metres.

Llantwit year-8 Lucy Tarrant was the fastest in the 800 metres time trials.

On the field, Matthew Roan (St Cyres), who had shown promise in the combined events championships, won the high jump with a 1.60 metres clearance while Tom Smith (Stanwell) and Lucy Taylor (Llantwit) claimed the triple jump and long jump respectively, and Bro Morgannwg's Fern Mason completed an unsual double, adding the u15 javelin title to her year-7 win in 2007.

There were two more Vale winners. Early in the afternoon, Aaron Reid (Barry Comprehensive) impressed with heat and final victories, in good times, in the 200 metres, while Nancie Edwards claimed the only Cowbridge victory at the end of the meeting in the 1500 metres walk.

The winners at these championships will receive their awards at the Cardiff & Vale Schools Track & Field Presentation Evening, which will be held at Cardiff High School on Tuesday, September 8, starting at 7pm.

Following this fixture, the under-15 teams will be selected to represent Cardiff & the Vale district at the Aviva Welsh Schools' National track & field championships, which will be held at Leckwith on Saturday, July 4.

CHAMPIONSHIPS

Vale results: U15 Boys – Years 8 & 9 – 100: **Ht 1 (ws -1.1)** 1 Cameron Jones (Stanwell) 12.38; **Ht 2 (ws -1.3)** 1 Thomas Williams (Stanwell) 12.40; 6 Matthew Roan (St Cyres) 13.26; **Ht 3 (ws -0.9)** 3 Rhys James (Barry) 12.90; 4 Christian Walters (Cowbridge) 13.12; Fin (ws 0.0) 2 Cameron Jones (Stanwell) 12.09; 3 Tom Williams (Stanwell) 12.31

200: Ht 1 (ws -0.3) 2 Tom Smith (Stanwell) 25.55; 4 Frank Roe (Barry) 26.14; 5 Ben Ware (Stanwell) 26.50; **Ht 2 (ws -0.3)** 3 Michael West (Llantwit) 26.33; 4 George Hooper (St Cyres) 26.94; 5 Pat Frilles (St Richard G) 27.12; **Ht 3 (ws +0.5)** 1 Aaron Reid (Barry) 24.71; 5 Jack Pritchard (Bro M) 26.42; **Fin (ws +0.9)** 1 Aaron Reid (Barry) 24.62; 4 Tom Smith (Stanwell) 25.35

400: Ht 1 2 Wesley Burns (Bro M) 58.25; 5 Connor Doyle (Barry) 1:01.69; **Ht 2** 2 Rhys James (Barry) 59.24; **Ht 3**: 1 Emyr George (Bro M) 57.78; **Fin**: 3 Emyr George (Bro M) 57.86; 4 Wesley Burns (Bro M) 57.92; 5 Rhys James (Barry) 59.07

800: 5 Huw Evans (Stanwell) 2:22.67; 9 Damien Robinson (Barry) 2:28.81; 12 Will Powell (Barry) 2:31.65; 13 John Conkey (Llantwit) 2:32.74; 14 Harri Williams (Bro M) 2:33.61; 15 Luke Wiltshire (St Richard G) 2:36.40; 16 Jake Bosza (Stanwell) 2:37.22

1500: 1 Matthew Edwards (Barry) 4:37.15; 3 Rory Heslop (Bro M) 4:48.19; 5 Callam Barrie (Barry) 4:54.54; 6 Dan Owen (Llantwit) 4:59.05; 8 Paul Jones (Stanwell) 5:07.26; 10 Sam Peterken (St Cyres) 5:08.04; 11 Morgan Preece (Bro M) 5:08.86; 13 Elliot Richards (Stanwell) 5:11.20; 15 Sam Corria (St Richard G) 5:16.53

80H: Ht 1 (ws +0.4) 2 Harry Hitchcock (Cowbridge) 12.98; 5 Josh Albertides (Barry) 14.79; 7 Nicholas Taylor (St Richard G) 15.03; **Ht 2 No WS** 2 David Parkes (Bro M) 14.16; 3 Ashley Wilson (St Cyres) **14.53**; 4 James Griffiths (Cowbridge) 15.99; 5 Rob Jones (Stanwell) 16.92; **Ht 3 (ws -0.7)** 2 Wesley Burns (Bro M) 13.94; 3 Matthew Roan (St Cyres) 14.07; 4 Will Powell (Barry) 15.37; 7 Tomaz Phillips (Stanwell) 18.13; **A Fin (ws +0.4)** 4 Harry Hitchcock (Cowbridge) 13.82; 6 Matthew Roan (St Cyres) 14.10; 7 Wesley Burns (Bro M) 14.12; 8 David Parkes (Bro M) 14.19; **B Fin (ws +1.0)** 1 Ashley Wilson (St Cyres) 14.14; 6 Josh Albertides (Barry) 15.43; 8 Nicholas Taylor (St Richard G) 15.67

1500 Walk: 5 Tom Bellingham (Stanwell) 10:17.58; 6 Fraser Hodgkins (Stanwell) 10:17.60; 8 Daniel Wells (Bro M) 10:23.63; 9 Sam Peterken (St Cyres) 10:23.75

HJ: 1 Mathew Roan (St Cyres) 1.60; 4= Glenn O'Leary (Llantwit) & Josh Albertides Barry 1.50; 6 Ieuan Ortin (Bro M) 1.45

PV: 3 George Connelly (Bro M) 1.80

LJ: 6 Rhys James (Barry) 4.72; 13 Christian Walters (Cowbridge) 4.57; 16 Wesley Burns (Bro M) 4.34

TJ: 1 Tom Smith (Stanwell) 10.87; 4 Will Powell Barry 10.45; 7 James Hendy (Cowbridge) 10.20; 10 Ioan Williams (Bro M) 9.92; 12 John Conkey (Llantwit) 9.74; 14 Ben Ware (Stanwell) 9.45; 18 Dafi Davies (Bro M) 8.98; 20 Joe Hudson (St Cyres) 8.62; 21 Mark Bolter (Llantwit) 8.54; 23 Nicholas Taylor (St Richard G) 7.09

SP: 2 Gus McPherson (Cowbridge) 11.06; 6 Ben Thomas (Bro M) 9.72; 7 Jack Austin (Llantwit) 9.56; 9 Jacob Harris (St Cyres) 9.30; 12 Dafi Davies (Bro M) 8.82; 15 Saeed Esa (St Cyres) 8.64; 18 David Evans (Llantwit) 7.81; 19 Matteo Holmes (Stanwell) 7.45

DT: 5 Jack Austin (Llantwit) 23.94; 6 Jack Pritchard (Bro M) 23.92; 11 Jacob Harris (St Cyres) 21.83; 16 James Hendy (Cowbridge) 19.85

HT: 7 Dafi Davies (Bro M) 18.88; 8 Jack Pritchard (Bro M) 17.68; 9 Matteo Holmes (Stanwell) 17.48; 10 Mark Bolton (Llantwit) 16.69; 12 David Evans (Llantwit) 14.40

JT: 2 Kieron Carpenter (Bro M) 32.99; 5 Sam Roberts (Cowbridge) 31.63; 12 Philip Stanforth (Bro M) 26.90; 13 Deon Garrison (Llantwit) 25.83

4x100: Ht 1 1 Stanwell 50.13; 3 Cowbridge 50.48; 4 Bro Morgannwg 52.27; 6 St Cyres 54.92; **Ht 3** 2 Barry Comprehensive 50.48; Llantwit Major disq; **Fin**: ; 3 Stanwell 49.65; 6 Cowbridge 51.35

Team: 3 YG Bro Morgannwg 172; 5 Barry Comprehensive 136; 6 Stanwell 128; 8 St Cyres 86; 12 Llantwit 82; 14 Cowbridge 74; 24 St Richard Gwyn 4

U15 Girls – Years 8 and 9

100: Ht 1 (ws +0.4) 2 Catrin Cosier (Bryn H) 14.07; 3 Zoe Stevens (Bro M) 14.18; 6 April Dee (St Richard G) 14.52; **Ht 2 (ws +0.7)** 6 Romy Killick (Cowbridge) 14.55; **Ht 3 No WS** 1 Maisie Matthews (Bro M) 13.62; 3 Lauren Drew (St Richard G) 14.12; 6 Chloe Phillips (Llantwit) 14.80 **Fin (ws -1.0)** 5 Lauren Drew (St Richard G) 14.18; 6 Catrin Cosier (Bryn H) 14.26; 8 Maisie Matthews (Bro M) 14.41

200: Ht 1 (ws +0.9) 2 Catrin Cosier (Bryn H) 28.34; 3 Zoe Stevens (Bro M) 29.31; 4 Lucy Taylor (Llantwit) 29.92; **Ht 2 (ws -0.6)** 2 Lauren Drew (St Richard G) 29.00; 5 Emma Worrell (Llantwit) 30.43; 7 Jade Argiriou (St Cyres) 31.38; **Ht 3 (ws -1.4)** 1 Maisie Matthews (Bro M) 27.99; 2 Carys Knapman (Bryn H) 28.78; **Fin (ws -0.8)** 2 Maisie Matthews (Bro M) 28.21; 4 Catrin Cosier (Bryn H) 28.73; 6 Carys Knapman (Bryn H) 29.19; 7 Lauren Drew (St Richard G) 29.69

800: 1 Lucy Tarrant (Llantwit) 2:34.03; 6 Aimee Price (Llantwit) 2:50.44; 7 Rachel Bradshaw (Cowbridge) 2:53.53; 12 Emily Thorne (St Cyres) 3:00.74; 14 Fern Mason (Bro M) 3:08.92; 15 Amy Wright (Bro M) 3:10.46; 16 Rachel Hignett (St Cyres) 3:19.54

1500: 1 Caitlin Bryant (The Cathedral) 5:17.27; 6 Megan Osborne (Llantwit) 5:32.01; 9 Fiona Bray (Cowbridge) 5:36.29; 2 Anthea Young (Llantwit) 5:54.72; 12 Danielle Green (St Richard G) 6:06.71

75H: Ht 1 (ws +0.4) 1 Chloe Phillips (Llantwit) 13.64; 3 Bethany Hawkins (Bro M) 15.11; 4 Katie Munro (Cowbridge) 15.15; 7 Chloe Whitlow (St Richard G) 16.45; **Ht 2 (ws +0.3)** 3 Bethan Flynn (Llantwit) 15.06; 4 Megan Thomas (Bro M) 15.44; 5 Caitlin Allin (Cowbridge) 15.48; 6 Annika Bugert (Stanwell) 15.60; 7 Elle Watkin (St Richard G) 17.01; **A Fin (ws +0.5)** 4 Chloe Phillips (Llantwit) 13.88; B Fin (ws +0.7) 1 Bethan Flynn (Llantwit) 14.71; 3 Bethany Hawkins (Bro M) 15.09; 4 Megan Thomas (Bro M) 15.32; 5 Caitlin Allin (Cowbridge) 15.40

1500 Walk: 1 Nancy Edwards (Cowbridge) 10:25.72; 3 Beth Allman (Cowbridge) 10:34.56; 9 Sophie Boyle (Stanwell) 10:54.47; 12 Laura Smith (Llantwit) 11:07.81; 13 Natalie Gill (Stanwell) 11:07.86; 15 Bethan Yapp (Bro M) 11:26.17

HJ: 3 Megan Thomas (Bro M) 1.40; 4= Maisie Matthews (Bro M) 1.35; 9 Rebecca Thomas (Cowbridge) 1.30; 10= Molly Frost (Cowbridge) 1.30; 15 Katie Mills (Bryn H) 1.25

LJ: 1 Lucy Taylor (Llantwit) 4.48; 3 Zoe Stevens (Bro M) 4.32; 9 Megan Thomas (Bro M) 3.84; 10 Danielle Green (St Richard G) 3.71; 13 Jessica Tidley (Cowbridge) 3.60; 14 Olivia Holt (Llantwit) 3.36

SP: 2 Lauren Drew (St Richard G) 8.12; 5 Jessica Hill (St Richard G) 7.78; 9 Danielle Boucher (Bro M) 7.42; 10 Leanne Kelland (Bro M) 7.35; 15 Elise Tyler (Bryn H) 6.59; 17 Amy O'Callaghan (St Cyres) 6.36; 18 Lucy Bason (Cowbridge) 6.36

DT: 2 Leanne Kelland (Bro M) 18.04; 4 Danielle Boucher (Bro M) 17.43; 5 Laura Howells (Cowbridge) 17.24; 8 Lucy Bason (Cowbridge) 16.07; 13 Jessica Hill (St Richard G) 15.04; 14 Bethan Flynn (Llantwit) 14.90

HT: 3 Danielle Boucher (Bro M) 18.32; 4 Leanne Kelland (Bro M) 16.39; 9 Michaela Harding (Llantwit) 13.30

JT: 1 Fern Mason (Bro M) 23.57; 2 Laura Howells (Cowbridge) 20.73; 7 April Dee (St Richard G) 16.45; 8 Aysha Clarke (Bro M) 15.50

4:100: Ht 1 2 Bro Morgannwg 55.68; 3 Llantwit Major 57.35; **Ht 2** 2 Bryn Hafren 56.53; 4 Cowbridge 57.92; 5 St Cyre's 1:01.47; **Ht 3** 5 St Richard Gwyn 59.23; **Fin**: 6 Bryn Hafren 57.52; 7 Llantwit 57.80; 8 Bro Morgannwg 57.93

Team: 1 YG Bro Morgannwg 215; 4= Llantwit 126; 6 Cowbridge 122; 12 St Richard Gwyn 78; 15 Bryn Hafren 50; 21= Stanwell 12; 23= St Cyres 8

Under-14 and under-16 Cup finals

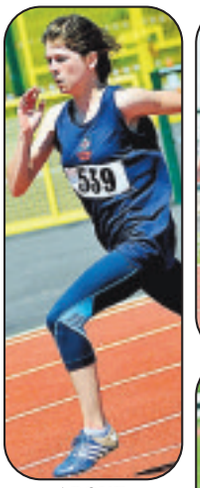
THE two Cardiff & the Vale Schools under-14 and under-16 track and field Cup Finals were staged at Jenner Park this week – the A final on Tuesday (June 16) and the B Final today (Thursday).

Following the six preliminary matches held to determine the schools, which qualify for the two finals, Bro Morgannwg was the only Vale school to qualify teams for the A final in all four sections.

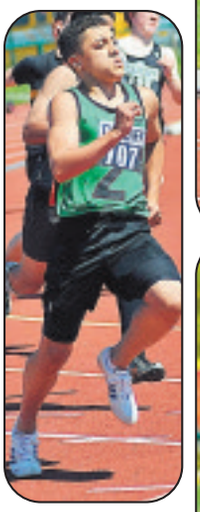
They were joined by three Llantwit squads – both boys' teams plus the under-14 girls. Cowbridge (Girls) and Barry Comprehensive had under-14 teams in action.

Winners at the A final qualify for the NASUWT Cymru Welsh Schools Cup Finals, which will be held at Brecon on Wednesday, July 8, with second placed teams going forward to the Plate competition at the same venue on that date.

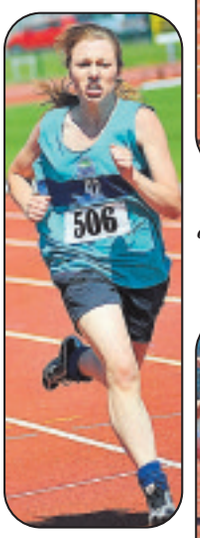
Vale representatives in the B Final include Cowbridge (u14 boys, u16 boys and girls), Bryn Hafren (both girls team), Stanwell (u14 boys and girls) and u16 boys' teams from St Cyres and Barry Comprehensive.



ABOVE: Lucy Taylor (Llantwit) in action in the 200 metres heats. Lucy later won the long jump.

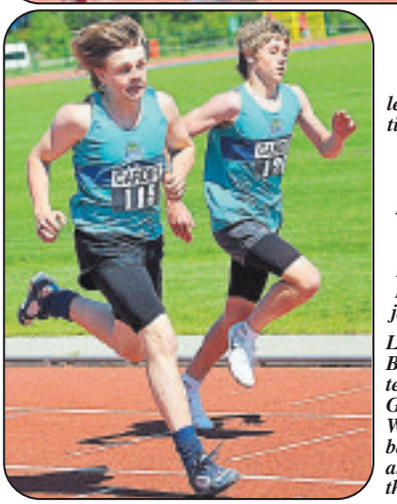


ABOVE: Winner - Aaron Reid (Barry Comprehensive) in the 200 metres



ABOVE: Maisie Matthews (Bro Morgannwg, 506), second in the girls 200 final.

ABOVE: Eventual winners Lucy Tarrant (Llantwit) already leads her 800 metres timetrial, which also includes Rachel Bradshaw (Cowbridge, 524), Rachel Hignett (St Cyres, 547), and Fern Mason (Bro Morgannwg, 505). Fern later won the javelin competition.



LEFT: Bro Morgannwg team-mates Emyr George (115) and Wesley Burns (120) battle it out for third and fourth places in the 400 metres final.

ABOVE: Matthew Edwards (Barry Comprehensive) controls the 1500 metres on his way to victory. Also included in the race were Vale athletes Callam Barrie (Barry Comp), Rory Heslop (Bro Morgannwg) and Dan Owen (Llantwit).

ABOVE: Barry4x100 - Last change for the Barry Comprehensive squad in the relay heats.

ABOVE: Bethan Flynn (Llantwit) on her way to a win in the B final of the 75 metres hurdles.

ABOVE: Jessica Tidley (Cowbridge) contests the girls' long.

OLYMPIC SUPREMO VISITS SOUTH WALES

THE man at the helm of bringing the world's largest sporting event to the UK has paid a visit to south Wales to celebrate getting the Sports Council for Wales' 5x60 programme fully up and running in all eight comprehensive schools in the Vale.

Sebastian Coe, former Olympic gold medallist and chairman of the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG), stopped off at Ysgol Bro Morgannwg in Barry as part of his whistle stop tour to Wales.

Street dance, table tennis, dodgeball and futsal were on the menu for the day and pupils from local schools were on hand to show Lord Coe just how it's done.

Seb Coe said: "We want to see more children and young people trying out sport with school facilities open, and coaches to motivate and support them.

"It's great that the 5x60 programme is having such an impact in schools across Wales. We saw fantastic elite sport from Welsh competitors in Team GB and ParalympicsGB at the Beijing Games last year, but it's only with programmes like this that hopefuls will be spotted for London 2012. "

Launched in October 2006 and supported by a £7.6million investment by the Welsh Assembly Government, the Sports Council for Wales programme – which is run locally by local councils – aims to ensure that secondary school pupils take part in 60 minutes of sport and physical activity five times a week.

The scheme is also running in Bridgend county borough.

To find out more about the Sports Council for Wales' 5x60 programme, visit www.5x60.org.uk

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Sam's 98 helps the under-13s home

CARDIFF and the Vale under-13s continued their winning ways on Sunday when they defeated Mid Glamorgan at Greenwood Park.

On a very hot and sunny afternoon. Cardiff and the Vale batted first and made 221 for 5 off 40 overs.

Sam Wood hit an excellent 98, well supported by Matthew Jacka (38) and Gareth Lennon (21).

In reply, Mid Glamorgan stuttered at the start, losing four quick wickets for 15 runs, but a fine partnership between Ashley Colston (32) and C Smeaton (46) took the score to a respectable 90 before the remaining batting collapsed and they were all out for 103.

Harri Collier took 3-24, Scott Matthews, 3-24, and Matthew Marley 2-13.

Cardiff and the Vale now face a tough weekend, playing Kings College away on Saturday, and Wiltshire at Cowbridge on Sunday.

ABOVE: Sam Wood.

THOMAS CARROLL VALE OF GLAMORGAN MIDWEEK CRICKET LEAGUE ROUND-UP

Barry Internationals win with three overs to spare

WITH the weather fair, 2008 champions Barry Internationals opened their account with a seven wicket win at Llantwit Cavaliers.

The Cavaliers won the toss and elected to bat first, but the openers found batting hard work as the ball stayed low and it wasn't long before the first wicket went down – James Snelson falling to a stunning catch behind the wicket.

Afzar came on to bowl and found alarming turn and bounce as he bamboozled the top order batsmen; he finished his spell with two wickets for five runs.

After 12 overs the Cavs only had 31 runs on the board and a very low score looked on the cards.

Mike Wood (bowled for 45) and Gareth Morgan (caught for 15) batted sensibly, hitting the bad ball to the boundary and managed to get the Cavaliers to a respectable score of 100 for the loss of six wickets.

Varuna and Salem came out to bat for the Barry Internationals and put together a fine opening partnership before Varuna was bowled by Matt Prudham for 27.

Salem went on to hit a steady 50 not out as the Internationals won by seven wickets with three overs to spare.

At St Mellons, league leaders Lisvane continued their fine form and racked up an impressive 183-5, Greg Edwards top-scoring with 78.

On another night, Wanderers reply of 146-7 would have been good enough to win most matches. Not this time though. Despite 67 from Stuart Jones and 30 from Jamie Keir, Wanderers fell short by 37 runs.

Luke Jones returned 3 for 24 for the Cardiff team.

Dinas Powys made the short trip down to Barry Island to take on Barry Athletic's youngsters and returned home with a 64-run win.

Dinas batted first and slipped to 57-5 after 10 overs.

However, a steady partnership of 66 between Dani Zaman and Miles Wilton led them to a respectable 134-6, with Dani Zaman top scoring on 41. Best bowling for the home side was opener Callum Twomey who returned 2-21.

Barry Athletic began the run chase slowly, contained by Steve Bussell and Mike Lowe, Bussell collecting two wickets.

However, the star of the Dinas bowling attack was Neil Islam, who recorded excellent figures of 4-11 off his four overs.

Only Ashley Baker showed any resistance, scoring 20 before being caught out.

With Zaman completing a good night's work by taking 2-11, Dinas wrapped up comfortable victory, despite not being able to bowl the opposition out.

A low, slow Wenvoe wicket saw a low scoring game between Tynewydd Strollers and Fontygary.

The Strollers won the toss and batted first but could only muster 93, with seven batsmen being clean bowled, many to the dreaded shooter.

John Gee top scored for the Strollers with 23 after being promoted to a rare opening slot.

Fontygary fared little better and were bowled out for 87 giving the Strollers a six-run win.

Ethan Fiddler took 3-14 and Steve Oram's leg-spin bringing 3-20.

Two individuals shone out. Fonty's Matt Thomas backed up his 3-7 with a fine 43, while Tynewydd's super-veteran Derek Allen, aged a princely 63 and quite likely the oldest player in the league, scored 17 and bowled his four overs for just nine runs.

Finally, Creigiau defeated Cogan by 11 runs in a close game at Penarth.

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Regardless of the recession, a new European Directive now legally requires an estimated 2.5 million homes and commercial properties being rented, sold or built to have an Energy Assessment this year alone. And more 'green environmental' laws are coming!

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ref: HS250

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Father's Day

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Heaps of love,
Diane *x x x x*

Jason Morgan
To the best Daddy and partner in the world!
Happy Father's Day
All our love, hugs and kisses.
Your No.1 boy Theo and Lisa.
xxxx

Birthdays

Julia Westall
Happy 60th Birthday
on 17th June
All our love,
Roger, Vicky, Sally,
Hannah & all the family.
xxxxx

KEN BATES
'You Old Git'
Happy 60th Birthday
Friday, 19th June
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Nette, Nick, Simon,
Karen and all the family x x x

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07961 022004
No canvassers 23

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Public Notices

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The council, in accordance with Section 21 (1) (a) Representation of the People Act 1985, shall fill this vacancy by way of co-option.
Any* Local Government elector who is interested in the possibility of being co-opted onto the Town Council should inform the undersigned in writing no later than than
1.00pm Friday 3rd July, 2009.
**Please note that it is not a requirement to reside within the Ward.*
Dated this 18th June 2009.
Andrew Davies, Town Clerk,
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Llanblethian Town Council, Town Hall,
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Pontyclun youngster sees double as he sets sights on FutureStars

ABOVE: Matthew Kamal.

PONTYCLUN'S Matthew Kamal met the two best doubles players in the world, Bob and Mike Bryan, at the AEGON Championships on Tuesday when the brothers took time out to hit with eight AEGON FutureStars.

The 12-year-old, who plays his tennis at Esporta Cardiff, was given a tour of Queens Club prior to meeting the star players, along with the other AEGON FutureStars.

The AEGON FutureStars programme was devised to help nurture and develop young talent across Britain, aiming to produce the next generation of top players through identifying talent in the sport at an early age.

The 31-year-old twins from California then put the youngsters through their paces with drills at both the net and baseline.

"It's been good to play with two of the best players in the world and I will probably follow them from now on," Matthew said.

"I am very proud to be a FutureStar and would like to be a professional when I'm older. It makes me feel good and confident to know that I'm good enough as I am in the AEGON FutureStars programme.

"It's fantastic to see the Bryans on television and then meet them in real life and also have the opportunity to hit with them, that was very special.

"They taught me that hard work will get you to number one so that's what I intend to do. I also learnt about good positioning on the court and how important communication between each other is."

The Bryans won the US Open in Flushing Meadows last summer and then began this season with victory in Melbourne Park to pick up the Australian Open title.

Local trainer's double glory

by BRIAN LEE

LLANCARFAN trainer Evan Williams sent two horses on the long journey to Market Rasen last Friday and won with both of them.

His *Mickmacmagole* won the Market RasenRaces.Co.Uk Handicap Hurdle under Cowbridge's James Tudor and his *Mr Robert*, partnered by Donal Fahy, took the next race on the card, the Market Rasen Novices' Hurdle.

The former won at odds of 11-2 and the latter went off a 13-2 chance. Those punters who backed them in a £1 double would have picked up £45.50.

Three Welsh riders rode winners at the recent Newton Abbot meeting.

Cowbridge's Deano Coleman was successful on the 4-1 favourite *Tank Buster* for Aberthin's Tim Vaughan, Ogmore's Christian Williams won on the Paul Nicholls' trained *Classic Swain* and west Wales' Isabel Tompsett, who recently rode her first double under rules, won on *Olvino* for Bargoed's Bernard Llewellyn.

Isabel, thanks chiefly to the Llangenor mare *Chesnut Annie*, who won all her ten point-to-points this season, has retained her Welsh point-to-point riders'championship.

Rhys Hughes, assistant trainer to Tim Vaughan, also retained his Welsh riders' title with a personal seasonal best of 22 wins.

Isabel rode a total of 14 winners.

The West Wales area is planning to hold a club Point-To-Point in January 2010 and in order to gauge the support it might receive, a special meeting at Nant-y-ffin, Llandissilio is being held on July 1 at 7.30pm.

Sully RFC under-16s are honoured at ceremony

SULLY SPORTS RFC under-16s recently held their end of season presentation.

The evening was a success, as has been the rest of the season.

The majority of this squad have been together for a good few seasons, indeed some players since the club formed the junior section at under-9 level.

The age group has gone from strength to strength and is relishing the challenge which will be offered by the step up to youth rugby.

Training has already started, and members are currently meeting at the Boys School on Thursdays at 6pm, new/old players welcome.

Thanks go to Robert Sidoli for presenting the trophies.

Most improved player went to Jordan Lapton, Clubman to Andrew Townsend, Player of The Year (as voted for by the players), Harry Moyle.

Special awards went to the Tourist of the Year, an award to the person/s who immerse themselves in the tour ethos, Tom Moffet, Luke Booker and Calien Mckinnon (another award voted for by the players, all three registering the same number of votes).

A special achievement award went to Efan Ellis who represented Wales in rugby league.

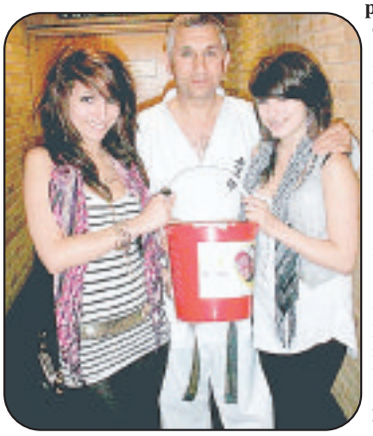
The highlight of the season was of course the tour to Ireland, but what goes on tour stays on tour so we cant tell you about that!

John, Barrie and Jay would like to say a massive thank you to the boys for their commitment.

JOHN MOYLE

New karate course is hailed a success

THE 'Karate Extravaganza' Penarth Leisure Centre recent-course which took place at ly was a big success, with people attending from all over Wales.



ABOVE: Elena Costa, Lee Costa 6th Dan and Sofia Costa with donation bucket.

There was expert tuition by top names in Welsh Karate, including British and European champions, former national coaches and the squad manager for Wales.

The instructors would like to thank everyone who turned up and helped make the course become so successful.

While the course was taking place, instructor Lee Costa's two daughters raised more than £120 from spectators for Ty Hafan, the children's hospice charity.

For more information, see website www.karate-jutsu.org

Llantwit Major bowlers have that winning habit

ON Wednesday, Llantwit played Barry Plastics in the Munro Cup, winning on three rinks, 70-52.

Alan Gibbard's rink were always in control forging ahead from the start. With Llanwit's skip and lead having already played in the afternoon there were some tired bodies by the eighteenth end, which resulted in a six shot win.

Norman Scouse's rink had the misfortune to be up against Plastics' strongest rink, with a good lead giving the opposition a good start, but despite this Llantwit put up a good fight to lose by only four shots.

Danny Ahearne's rink started well and continued in the same vein, with the Plastics coming back to win the last four ends.

Neville Young's rink had a weak side against them, with Bert Cook getting in some good shots Plastics were always struggling; on top of this Arthur Hayes had a bizarre shot which was more like a billiard shot, cannoning off two bowls ending up behind the jack to the amazement of all.

Rink scores - Alan Gibbard 16-10, Danny Ahearne 20-13, Norman Scouse 14-18, Neville Young 20-11.

On Saturday, Llantwit played their second league match when Cardiff West End were the visitors.

Llantwit took maximum points in a 87-65 win.

Alan Gibbard's rink were always in contention after John Ball warmed up and found the correct length to bowl, giving Llantwit its best win.

Charles Hiscock's rink surged ahead from the start, which looked odds on for a runaway win until the final few ends when West End clawed back some shots.

Neville Young's rink were in dire trouble at the start, with West End's back end players playing with straight woods and taking Llantwit's bowls out of the head.

Then everything changed on the thirteenth end when Llantwit picked up a four to take the lead.

Changing to a long jack made the difference and Llantwit were never in trouble again.

Danny Ahearne's rink had a titanic struggle. Never in total command, they battled on to win by one shot.

Rink scores - Alan Gibbard 23-13, Charles Hiscock 24-18, Neville Young 21-16, Danny Ahearne 19-18.

Cricket festival for Llantwit Major under-9s

ON SUNDAY, the Llantwit Major under-9 team hosted their first festival at Windmill Lane, with three of the top Cardiff and Vale clubs visiting.

Batting proved harder than last time and the players struggled against tight bowling and a variable pitch.

In the first game Penarth kept the Llantwit total to 209.

After a quick interval discussion Llantwit went out and showed how they can bowl and field, with some accurate bowling and enthusiastic fielding restricting Penarth to 194, winning by 15 runs.

In the second game Llantwit scored 226 against Whitchurch Heath.

Whitchurch proved more of a test, but the Llantwit players kept their cool to close the game out by 6 runs.

Game three was against the big guns of Cardiff.

Llantwit struggled throughout with the bat, ending their innings on 194. However, Llantwit pushed Cardiff all the way and from the mid point, Cardiff shut up shop with the intention of not losing wickets.

The Llantwit players put in a mighty effort but in the end Cardiff ended on 210, thus winning by 18 runs.

This was an excellent day for the Llantwit Major under-9s, winning two games against some of the premier teams of the area.

Thanks to all the players for their efforts and to the parents for the most vocal support of all the teams.

Llantwit Major squad: Joe Baker, Josh Bush, Moses Gee, Nick Harris, Lloyd Richards, Ellis Simon, Sam Snaith, Ieuan Williams, Jac Wisenden.

PH

Brothers help Barry to win

BARRY Wanderers' second team looked to keep up their fine recent run with the long trip up the valley to Blaina.

The home side batted first and were restricted to a paltry 101 all out. Pick of the bowling was club president Mike Ashton with 4-21, and club chairman Rob Tucker with 3-18.

Other contributees were Mark Ellis, Elwyn Toozer and Tom Ridgewell. Ellis was unlucky that after trying to take a stunning catch, he broke a finger.

Ridgewell superbly tipped one of Ashy's loose ones over the boundary for six and with Chris Barnes also among the droppers, the target could have been lower.

Two brothers playing for Blaina each did their stint of umpiring, and in doing so both gave each other out – dubiously lbw!

The Wanderers reply began with Chris Sanders alongside Luke Denning.

Colin Rowlands chipped in with a useful 12, Ridgewell with a supportive 18 not out and the impressive Devanka Pathak, with 47 not out, helping steer the Wanderers to a great six wicket win.

The first team were successful, also by a margin of six wickets mainly thanks to 67 not out from Ed Sherriff and a useful 24 runs from Jimmy Hassett.

Barry's brothers in arms will compete for Wales in Japan

BROTHERS Sensei Lee and Sempai Spencer Bennett fly to Japan later this month to represent Great Britain, Wales and The Rising Sun Kyokushin Karate Club at the World Full Contact All Japan Kyokushin Union Championships in Osaka.

The two instructors have had their work cut out over the last six months running the club at the YMCA HUB, working full time jobs and having to fit training in up to three times a day, six days per week to be able to keep up with the standard of competition.

It is their second time in Japan in two years, as last year the same tournament was held in Okinawa, where the brothers were unlucky not to reach the later stages.

Sensei Lee will be competing in the under 67.5kg category. He commented: "Last year, after beating a South African opponent in the first round, I had a bad decision against the current world champion after an extension round. Taking sixth place wasn't my ideal result, and I am much more determined this time around, and feel much stronger than last year."

Sempai Spencer has moved up to the 67.5kg-77.5kg middle weight division, after putting on seven kilos over the year. He stated: "I was in the under-67.5kg category last year and I didn't feel at my best. I lost a lot of weight for the competition and couldn't find my feet, yet I almost knocked my Russian opponent down with a good head kick, though he came back and seemed to have a bit more strength than me towards the end of the contest.

ABOVE: Barry's karate brothers are off to the world championships.

"It went the full distance, but I thought if I was a bit heavier this year I would be able to hit with my natural weight and feel stronger."

Spencer is a second Dan black belt, is number one in Wales and also the current British Lightweight Full contact champion at under 70kgs.

The Kyokushin Karate Duo teach and train at Barry YMCA HUB. All instructors hold CRB checks, are first aid qualified and licensed with KSK (Kyokusin Schools of Karate), and also affiliated to the WKGB (Welsh Karate Governing Body).

For more information, contact Lee on: 07861 699476 or visit the club website at www.rising-sun-kyokushin.co.uk

WHO WANTS TO BUILD WHAT AND WHERE IN THE VALE

Mr Geoff Wood – **Stoney Bank Farm, Broughton Road, Wick** – the erection of a slate roofed glass fronted link between Barn A and Barn B (both barns previously approved for residential use) at Stoney Bank Farm (previously called Westard Farm).

Mr R Jones – **4 Cwrt Llanfleiddan, Llanblethian, Cowbridge** – Alteration and extension of dwelling to form changing room over garage.

Mr and Mrs Harris – **Redlands Farm, Bonvilston** – proposed extension to existing farmhouse to form farm office and additional bedroom.

Mr Hulin – **Wenvoe Community Centre, Old Port Road, Wenvoe** – extension and alteration works to create a new kitchen to the north and west elevation.

Tabernacle Baptist Church – **25 Clive Place, Penarth** – installation of new PVC-u white vertical box sash windows to the front of the property.

Mr Julian Franks – **27 Arlington Road, Sully** – single storey rear extension.

Mr and Mrs Stephens – **3 Bowmans Well, Cowbridge** – demolition of existing garage, proposed garage with shower and utility room to ground floor, additional bedroom and shower room to first floor.

Mr David Jones – **Sunny Croft, College Terrace, College Street, Llantwit Major** – two storey extension providing bathroom and store.

Mr Christopher Powell – **1 Wolfe Close, Cowbridge** – two storey front extension with extended side dormer.

Mr Colin Asbrey – **12/13 Laburnum Way, Dinas Powys** – fell (T1) Lawsons Cypress; fell (T2) Lawsons Cypress and reduce upper crown by 1.5-2m and reduce limbs over lawn by 2-3m (T3) oak.

Wordley Productions Ltd – **2 High Street, Penarth** – erection of rear extension, dormer window, balconies, new windows/doors and velux rooflights.

Mr and Mrs Rosier – **Sevenoaks Fish Farm, Talygarn, Pontyclun** – permanent change of use to residential and office use.

Mr Stephen Darker – **5 Robinswood Crescent, Penarth** – dismantle existing conservatory to rear of property and erect single storey flat roof extension.

Mr David William – **Crackhill Motorcross, Crackhill, Colwinston** – change of use to motorcross practice track.

Mr Clifford Dye – **1 Windsor Road, Penarth** – proposal to build a small extension adjoining a modern extension to the rear of the listed building, which will serve for the installation of two new Automated Teller Machines (ATM).

Mr Ken Holland-Hannen – **Flat 1, 8 Royal Buildings, Penarth** – conversion of existing monopitch roof to new terrace to rear of property to provide amenity space to first floor flat.

Mrs C Freeman – **Corner House, Llysworney** – fell a contorted hazel.

Mr Bassam Fallas – **46 Walston Road, Wenvoe** – addition of first floor bedroom and en-suite above existing garage.

Mr Jeff Thomas – **Barry College, Colcot Road, Barry** – over-roofing and replacement of existing facade at Block A.

Mr Andrew Bowen – **land at rear of Dow Corning site, Cardiff Road** – an above ground control kiosk (2m x 0.825m x 1.8 high) and vent pipe with provision for an improved access road within the existing site, located within a new palisade fenced compound.

Mr Kennealy – **178 Port Road East, Barry** – proposed conservatory to rear.

Mr Mathew Attanasio – **109 South Road, Sully** – to remove an existing velux window and construct a dormer window in its place. The dormer will have the same roof materials as the existing and have a gable frontage.

Fitz Project Management – **72 Pontypridd Road, Barry** – two new dormer windows into roof of existing dormer bungalow.

Ms Susan Davies – **Little Mill, Cog Farm, Cog Road, Sully** – erection of freestanding garage/store to rear garden.

Mr Thomas Prichard – **Argoed Isha Quarry, Llanharry** – change of use for Argoed Isha Quarry to be used as a training centre for CPCS operator training.

Mr Thomas Prichard – **Argoed Isha Quarry, Llansannor, Llanharry** – process existing stockpiles and loose material with crushing and screening machinery, and remove from site.

Mr Wayne Jones – **21 Liscum Way, Barry** – loft conversion with dormer to rear.

Mr Hugh Cory – **Homri Farm, St Nicholas** – alterations and extensions to existing dwelling and new garage.

Mr Mark Andrews – **Sutton Mawr, Weycock Road, Barry** – conversion of existing stables/barn to bed and breakfast accommodation and erection of wind turbine.

Ms Lisa Edwards – **Keepers Cottage, 1a Grove Terrace, Penarth** – proposed entrance porch.

Mr Paul Morris – **18 St Athan Road, Cowbridge** – two storey front extension (squaring off) garage conversion to living space.

Mr MJ Gardner – **Brook House, Main Avenue, Wyndham Park, Peterston-Super-Ely** – renewal of planning permission 04/00881/FUL for ground floor extension to provide additional bedroom and bathroom.

Cowbridge Charter Trust – **Old Hall, Cowbridge** – maintenance and reinstatement works for the remaining length of wall between the gated entrance to the Health Centre and the Market Place Tavern.

Mr Wadih Nasrallah – **rear of 14 Westbourne Road, Penarth** – demolition, rebuilding and alteration of existing Coach House to create new two storey one bedroom dwelling.

Mr Philip Mathews – **The Old Rectory, St Mary Church, Cowbridge** – construction of single storey extension to form Orangery. Removal of three windows overbuilt by extension. Removal of glazed pair of doors to kitchen to be replaced with window.

Mr F Coughlan, **23 White House, The Knap, Barry** – ground floor study extension to front of property, with associated alterations to roof of the property.

Mr John Lean, **9 Kymin Terrace, Penarth** – rear ground floor kitchen extension, plus conservation rooflights to existing roof.

Mr Alex Glanville, **15 Wick Road, Ewenny** – demolish existing garage with first floor accommodation over, provision of new chimney and dormer window to north (rear) elevation.

Mr Mark Bailey, **The Old Vicarage, Church Road, Llanblethian** – renewal of previous approval for a swimming pool extension.

Mr Ian Bancroft, **30 Wenvoe Terrace, Barry** – erection of garage to rear.

Ms Thomas, **159 Plymouth Road, Penarth** – two-storey side extension, single storey rear extension and front balconies, plus additional pavement crossover.

Mr Leighton, **64 Cornerswell Road, Penarth** – single storey extension to the rear of the house, incorporating internal alterations/improvements.

Mr N Fox and Mr M Caplan-Hill, **The Italian Shelter, The Esplanade, Penarth** – variation of condition 3 of the application 2008/-1447/FUL to allow the lower terrace to remain open for the consumption of food and drink until 10.30pm.

Mr and Mrs Colin Ryland, **Larkhill, Westgate, Cowbridge** – alteration and extension of existing bungalow to provide additional accommodation at first floor level, provision of new attached garage.

Mr David Powell, **41 Tyle House Close, Llanmaes** – single storey extension to rear, alterations to kitchen and garage.

Mr and Mrs B Brooks, **15 Enfield Drive, Hunters Ridge, Barry** – two-storey rear extension.

Miss Amanda Mill, **9 St Donats Close, Dinas Powys** – single storey extension to form study.

Mrs Julie Hart, **34 Tair Onen, St Hilary, Cowbridge** – single storey extension to rear and new ramped access.

Mrs Christine Lewis, **Southgate Cottage, Holmesdale Place, Penarth** – minor alterations – rooflight removed and replaced with dormer window to match existing.

Mr Roger Irving, **7 Maes Y Coed, Barry** – amendment to original conservatory design 2007/0094/FUL/

Mr Howard Davies, **29 Broadway, Llanblethian** – removal of existing single garage and erection of double garage.

Mr Clifford Edge, **St lltuds Church, Church Lane, Llantwit Major** – repairs to Grade 2 listed bridge by the provision of a new handrail, new surface in resin bonded gravel, disabled access ramp.

Mr Gregory Kingdon, **rear of 32 Barry Road, Barry** – lawful development certificate for use of the garage as a one or two car repair facility.

Mr David Illman, **The Scout Hall, Dyfan Road, Barry** – new scout hall

Mr B Walpole, **15 Bron Awelon, Barry** – new porch to side of dwelling, incorporating alterations to existing outside toilet. Remove side chimney stack and insert new side elevation window.

Mrs Barbara Whitehouse, **field adjacent to Winchfield House, Craig Penllyn, near Cowbridge** – create a path (approx 784 metres long) around the perimeter of the Winchfield.

Mr Phil James, **White Bungalow, Barry Road, Dinas Powys** – replacement dwelling and detached garage to rear.

Tesco Stores, **57 Holton Road, Barry** – variation of condition 6 of application 2008/00365/FUL – to allow for deliveries, loading, unloading or servicing on Sundays and Bank Holidays between 7am-11pm, in addition to allowing deliveries between 7am-10pm from Monday to Saturday.

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05 05 FIESTA 1.4 TDCI Zetec Climate 5-dr. Alloys, a/c, cd **£5695**
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06 06 FOCUS 1.6 LX 5-dr. A/c,cd, electrics **£6295**
06 56 FOCUS 1.6 LX Estate 5-dr. A/c, cd, electrics **£5795**
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02 52 PEUGEOT 206 1.6S Coupe Cab. A/c, 6 Disc, low miles **£5295**

AUTOMATICS

08 08 FUSION 1.4 Zetec Auto 5-dr. A/c, cd, alloys **£8995**
08 57 MONDEO 2.3 Edge Estate Auto. Sat nav, park assist **£11995**
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06 06 FIESTA 1.6 Ghia 5-dr Auto. Alloys, a/c, cd, full electrics **£7295**
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06 06 FOCUS 1.6i Zetec Climate 5-dr Auto. A/c, alloys, cd **£6995**
06 06 FOCUS 1.6 LX 5-dr Auto. A/c, cd, electrics **£6495**
06 06 FOCUS 1.6 Sport Estate Auto. Alloys, a/c, cd **£6495**
06 06 C-MAX 2.0 Zetec Auto. Alloys, a/c, cd, choice **£6995**
06 55 FIESTA 1.4 Zetec Climate Auto 3-dr. Alloys, a/c, cd **£6295**
06 55 FOCUS 2.0 Ghia 5-dr Auto. Alloys, cd, cruise **£6995**
06 55 C-MAX 2.0 Ghia Auto 5-dr. Alloys, a/c, cd **£7295**
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OTHERS

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08 08 TOYOTA Aygo Blue 1.0 VVTi 5-dr. A/c, bluetooth **£7495**
07 57 PEUGEOT 308 1.6S 5-dr. A/c, electrics **£8495**
07 07 RENAULT Clio 1.2 16v Expression 3-dr. A/c, cd **£6495**
07 07 VAUXHALL Meriva 1.3 CDTi Life. A/c, electrics, cd **£7995**
07 07 PEUGEOT 207 1.4 Sport 5-dr. Alloys, a/c, cd, ... **£7495**
07 07 VW Fox 1.2S 3-dr. Cd, electrics **£5295**
06 06 RENAULT Scenic 2.0 Privilege 5-dr. A/c, alloys, cd, 1/2 leather trim **£6995**
06 06 VAUXHALL Zafira 1.6i Life 5-dr. 7 seats, a/c, cd **£6995**
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06 06 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 SXI + 3-dr. Half leather, alloys **£4995**
06 06 NISSAN Note 1.4 SE 5-dr. A/c, cd, alloys **£6495**
06 06 RENAULT Modus 1.4 Dynamique 5-dr. cd, a/c. **£4995**
05 55 PEUGEOT 206 1.4 Sport 3-dr. Alloys, a/c, cd **£4495**
05 05 KIA Picanto 1.1 LX 5-dr. A/c, cd **£3495**
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WIN A CHILD'S CAR SEAT WITH BRITAX AND THE GLAMORGAN GEM

BRITAX, a leading car seat manufacturer, has teamed up with The Glamorgan GEM, to offer you the chance to win a Britax AA KIDFIX seat worth £149.99.

As if that wasn't enough, next Monday through to Sunday (June 22-28), they will also be working alongside AA and Mothercare to offer free safety checks for children's car seats.

Come along to Cardiff City Link from 10am, where the professional AA team will be offering expert advice and guidance on how to choose and fit the right car seat for your child.

Britax and the AA patrols will be offering demonstrations of the ISOFIX safety systems on Britax AA ISOFIX child car seats to show just how easy and safe the ISOFIX system is.

ISOFIX is an international system, which offers the simplest, safest and quickest method of correct installation of a car seat, without using a seat belt.

The ISOFIX system reduces movement of the seat and limits rotation, giving parents the ultimate of peace of mind for their child's safety.

SAFEFIX plus and KIDFIX child car are built into the seat and clip directly to the ISOFIX system in the car.

For further information on Britax car seats and ISOFIX, visit *www.britax.eu.* For more information on the roadshow, please visit *www.theaa.com/britax-mothercare.*

For your chance to win, answer the following question:

On which days next week will the Britax event be taking place?

Send your answers on a postcard, marked Britax Competition, to The Glamorgan GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL, to arrive by Friday, June 26.

Normal terms and conditions apply and the judge's decision is final.

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Road works in the Vale

Dock View Road junction with Thompson Street, Barry – ongoing temporary traffic signals.

Sully Road, between Penarth and Sully (near Ashgrove School) – ongoing intermittent traffic control to allow construction of new access.

High Street, Cowbridge (near Town Hall) – narrow lanes in operation to allow improvements to bus stop.

Gileston Road, St Athan – temporary traffic signals near site of former Methodist church, to allow installation of new water main.

B4267 Lavernock Road, Penarth near Brockhill Rise – intermittent temporary off-peak traffic signals until July 15, for essential water works.

A4055 Cardiff Road between Dinas Powys and Barry – temporary traffic signals in operation over the next few weeks, while repairs are undertaken to a landslide. Motorists are advised to use an alternative route during peak hours.

VICTORIAN FAYRE

Various roads in Llantwit Major Town Centre will be closed between 8am-6pm, on Saturday, June 20, for Victorian fayre to take place.

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WAMA fighters head for the Dublin World Championships

ABOVE:
Included in the picture with instructors Richard Owen and Chris Page are: Assistant Instructor Jenny Whinney, Rhys Harding, Zoe Peters, Alex Peters, Connor Bright, Morgan Jenkins, Jamie Jenkins, Connor Grant, and Hannah Harvey.

STUDENTS of the Welsh Academy of Martial Arts qualified to represent Great Britain in the forthcoming World Karate and Kickboxing Council's World Championships which are taking place in Dublin in October this year.

WAMA has produced world-class fighters for more than 20 years.

The results were as follows: **First place and Welsh title holders – semi contact section**: Connor Grant (seven), a pupil at Holton Road Primary School; Morgan Jenkins (six) from Llancadle, who attends Ysgol Saint Curig; Connor Bright (eight) who attends Ysgol Saint Baruc. Hannah Harvey (12) from Barry who goes to Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School; Jenny Whinney (18) from Penarth.

First place and Welsh Title Holders – light contact section: Jamie Jenkins (four) from Llancadle, a pupil at Ysgol Saint Curig; Morgan Jenkins (six) from Llancadle, who attends Ysgol Sant Curig; Connor Bright (eight) attends Holton Road Primary School; Rhys Harding(11) from Barry a pupil at Ysgol Saint Baruc; Hannah Harvey 12 years of age from Barry; Alex Peters (14) from Barry, a pupil at St Richard Gwyn Roman Catholic School; and Jenny Whinney (18) from Penarth.

Silver and Bronze Medallists: Jamie Jenkins, silver – semi contact; Connor Grant, silver light contact; Rhys Harding, silver – semi contact; Zoe Peters, silver – semi-contact. Rhys (11) from Barry attends St Richard Gwyn Roman Catholic School; Lauren Kelly, bronze – 13 years of age, from Barry attends St Richard Gwyn Roman Catholic School.

For further information, come along to Cadoxton Sports Hall on a Monday and Friday; Colcot Sports Centre on Thursday, – little ninjas: 6pm-7pm and seniors 7pm-8pm.

AM asks: Why do more men than women pass their driving test?

PLAID CYMRU regional AM Chris Franks has asked the Driving Standards Agency to explain why male learners have a higher pass rate than women L-drivers at almost every test centre in Wales, including Barry.

Information supplied to the South Wales Central AM by the DSA reveals the all-Wales pass rate for men is 50.52 per cent – while it is 47.4 per cent among women. The pass rate among women drivers from the Barry Test Centre was 46.1 per cent, compared to 51.5 per cent for men, during the year to March 31.

A total of 1,307 men were tested in Barry compared to 1,195 women.

The average pass rate for both men and women was 48.9 per cent – slightly up on the previous 12 months.

Mr Franks has now written to DSA chief executive Rosemary Thew seeking information on the discrepancies between male and female pass rates and between different test centres in Wales.

He said: "I was surprised that the pass rate for men is higher than for women at almost every test centre in Wales including the Barry centre, so I've written to the DSA chief executive for an explanation.

"One of the many reasons could be that the vast majority of driving examiners in Wales are men, but we just don't know, so that's why I'm asking the question".

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04 **04 Mini 1.6 Cooper Pepper 3-dr Hatchback.** In chilli red with half leather interior, rear spoiler, alloy wheels, air con, only 50,170 miles **£7,995**

04 **04 BMW 3 Series 2.0 318ci ES 2-dr Coupe** in met silver grey with anthracite interior, a/c, alloys wheels, 1 previous owner, 61,315 miles **£7,995**

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05 **55 VW Beetle 2.0 2-dr Cabriolet** In reflex silver with black leather interior, heated seats, air con, CD, alloy wheels, only 25,010 miles **£9,995**

05 **05 FORD Street ka 1.6 Luxury 2-dr Convertible** in French met, blue with ebony black leather interior, air con, elec windows, front fogs, cd,only 17.050 miles **£6,495**

03 **03 FORD Street ka 1.6 Luxury 2-dr Convertible** in street silver, black leather interior, heated seats, a/c, alloy wheels, only 69,700 miles **£4,495**

02 **02 PORSCHE Boxster S 3.2 2-dr Convertible** in brilliant silver with black leather interior, 18inch sport design alloy wheels, wind deflector, heated seats, only 38,850 miles **£13,995**

99 **T MAZDA MX5 1.8i 2-dr Convertible 10th Anniversary Limited Edition.** In metallic blue with blue/black interior, alloy wheels, CD, alarm, immobiliser, body coloured bumpers, only 42,422 miles **£4,995**

EXECUTIVE/SPORTS

05 **05 BMW X5 3.0 Diesel Sport Automatic 5-Dr Station Wagon.** In sterling grey with black leather interior, cruise control, aluminium side steps, tinted windows, automatic climate control, heated seats, 40,800 miles . . **£18,995**

06 **06 FORD Mondeo 2.0 Titanium X 5-dr Hatchback** in stardust silver with half black leather interior, quick clear front screen, 18 inch alloy wheels, heated front seats, cd, only 21,445 miles **£7,995**

06 **55 TOYOTA Corolla 1.8 VVTi T Sport 3-Dr Manual Hatchback.** In Red with sports seats and sports steering wheel, alloy wheels, front fogs, body kit, traction control, only 27,780 miles **£7,995**

05 **55 VOLVO S40 2.0 Diesel SE** in amethyst with ivory leather interior, cd, alloy wheels, cruise control, sunroof, electric seats, only 34,255 miles **£9,995**

04 **54 TOYOTA Celica 1.8 VVTi Premium Coupe.** In crystal silver with Montreal black leather interior, climate control, alloy wheels, immobiliser, deadlocks, alarm, CD, only 27,953 miles **£8,995**

04 **54 ROVER 75 Tourer 2.0 CDTi Connoisseur SE 5-dr Estate Automatic.** In Cimarron Green with black leather interior, walnut dash and steering wheel, alloy wheels, rear parking sensors, only 48,180 miles **£6,995**

04 **04 SEAT Ibiza 1.9 TDi 130 FR 3-Dr Hatchback.** In Flash Red with sport grid dark interior, alloy wheels, climate control, sports seats, traction control, CD, alarm, only 31,260 miles **£6,495**

02 **52 AUDI A4 SE 2.0 Petrol 4-dr Saloon Automatic.** In Crystal Blue with phoenix cloth interior, parking sensors on front and rear, air con, CD, alloy wheels, electric windows, only 55,560 miles **£5,995**

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07 **07 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2i 16v SXi 3-dr hatchback** in black sapphire with black interior, air con, alloy wheels, cdm colour coded bumpers, only 19,615 miles **£7,495**

07 **07 PEUGEOT 206 1.4 Look 3-dr Hatchback** in aluminium silver with Madison graphite interior, air con, cd, electric front windows, only 9,120 miles **£6,495**

07 **07 RENAULT Clio 1.2 16v Extreme 3-dr Hatchback.** In metallic black with dark interior, alloy wheels, CD, body coloured bumpers, front electric windows, only 19,005 miles **£6,495**

07 **07 FIAT Grande Punto 1.2 Active 5-dr Hatchback.** In chemical gray with drop blue black interior, central locking, CD, immobiliser, body coloured bumpers, only 22,120 miles **£5,795**

07 **57 Chevrolet Matiz 1.0SE 5-dr Hatchback.** In poly silver with blue interior, CD, air con, central locking, immobiliser, only 14,230 miles **£3,995**

06 **56 FORD Fiesta 1.25 Zetec Climate 3-dr Hatchback** in tonic blue with tungsten/denim interior, air con, alloy wheels, quick clear screen, cd, front fogs, only 24,250 miles **£5,995**

06 **06 PEUGEOT 206 1.4 Verve 3-dr Hatchback.** In onyx black with madison grey interior, air con, alloy wheels, CD, low insurance, only 14,545 miles **£5,995**

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06 **56 PEUGEOT 107 1.0 12v Urban 3-dr Hatchback.** In Raven black with black matrix interior, electric windows, CD, colour coded bumpers, only 16,465 miles **£5,995**

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04 **04 MG ZR+ 1.4 3-dr.** In metallic grey with half leather interior, electric windows, air con, alloy wheels, CD, only 63,335 miles **£3,495**

06 **56 VW Golf 1.9 TDi S 5-Dr Hatchback.** In reflex silver with anthracite media interior, automatic air con, body coloured bumpers, CD, only . . . . 22,160 miles **£9,495**

05 **55 VW Beetle 2.0 2-dr Cabriolet** In reflex silver with black leather interior, heated seats, air con, CD, alloy wheels, 25,010 miles.....**£9,995**

04 **54 TOYOTA Celica 1.8 VVTi Premium Coupe.** In crystal silver with Montreal black leather interior, climate control, alloy wheels, immobiliser, deadlocks, alarm, CD, 27,953 miles.....**£8,995**

06 **55 TOYOTA Corolla 1.8 VVTi T Sport 3-Dr Manual Hatchback.** In Red with sports seats and sports steering wheel, alloy wheels, front fogs, body kit, traction control, only 27,780 miles **£7,995**

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03 **53 FORD Fiesta 1.4 TDCi Ghia 5-dr Hatchback** in moondust silver with bussac ebony interior, air con, cd, alloy wheels, colour coded, bumpers, only 43,745 miles, £35 a year road tax.....**£4,995**

06 **56 PEUGEOT 107 1.0 12v Urban 3-dr Hatchback.** In Raven black with black matrix interior, electric windows, CD, colour coded bumpers, only 16,465 miles **£5,995**

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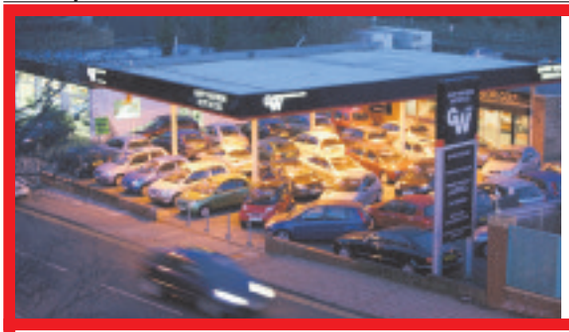

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03 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 SX 3-dr. In Black, 61,000 miles with CD, alloys etc. **£3,795**
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53 VW Golf 1.9 GT TDi (Diesel) 5-Dr. Finished in met silver, alloys, a/c, cd, 67k **£6295**
52 BMW XS 3.0i 5-dr Automatic. Finished in met silver, **full black leather**, alloys, a/c, cruise, reverse parking sensors, cd/multi, 63k **£9995**
52 PEUGEOT 206 GTI 2.0 3-dr. Finished in china blue met, **leather/suede interior**, pas, alloys, climate, cd **£4295**
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56 VAUXHALL Zafira Design 1.9 CDTi (Diesel) 5-dr. Finished in met red with **1/2 black leather trim**, alloys, air con, radio/cd, 7 seats, 26k **£8495**
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56 CITROEN C4 VTR+ 1.6 5-dr. Finished in met silver, alloys, climate, cd, 24k **£5995**
06 FORD Focus 1.6 Zetec Climate T 3-dr. Finished in moondust silver, alloys, climate, cd, 1 owner, 33k **£6295**
06 CITROEN C4 1.4 VT Coupe. Finished in met grey, pas, r/c/l, e/w, cd, 1 owner, fsh, 37k **£4995**
06 PEUGEOT 307 1.6S 5-dr. Finished in black, alloys, a/c, cd, 31k **£5995**
05 TOYOTA Corolla T3 D4D (Diesel) 5-dr. Finished in met silver, alloys, a/c, cd, 1 owner, fsh, 48k **£5995**
05 SEAT Altea Stylance TDI (Diesel) Finished in met grey, alloys, climate, cd, 56k **£6495**
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05 HONDA ACCORD 2.0 SE
S/history, e/pack, alloys, a/con,
reverse sensors, lovely example

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GEM sport

Wigan Warriors are tamed as ...

Crusaders take big scalp for crucial second RL victory

A BIG crowd – their second biggest of the season – saw Celtic Crusaders produce a stunning display against Wigan Warriors at the Brewery Field for a vital Super League win 22-16.

It completed a perfect day at the Brewery Field for Wales. Earlier in the day, the Wales A side had trounced England Lionhearts 42-4 and the crowd were already in high spirits before the main game had kicked off.

Wigan squandered chances and Crusaders wing Luke Dyer had to pull off a tremendous try-saving tackle to deny Shaun Ainscough.

Then, the Crusaders turned on a fantastic half of rugby in which there was not one penalty conceded by either side and the Welsh side gave as good as they got.

Crusaders went in front when Welsh international Mark Lennon made a decisive break down the left, passed to the excellent Peter Lupton, who put scrum-half Jace Van Dijk on a 20-yard run under the posts for Lennon to convert.

Wigan hit back when second row Harrison Hansen drove over as Wigan put the pressure on the home team inside their 25, with Pat Richards converting.

Next, a huge crossfield kick by Van Dijk sent Lupton over near the posts and, with Lennon's conversion, Crusaders were 12-6 ahead at the interval.

The home side scored first with a truly outstanding try that had the crowd on their feet. Jason Chan had a massive hand in the score.

When it looked like he'd been tackled, he was back up on his feet and created a possible chance on the left wing. Blackwood was tackled and, from the next set, it was Chan's pass that set up Dalle Cort.

Dalle dived onto his own grub kick to score in the corner and Lennon missed the conversion.

Wigan were back in the game when a 50-50 decision gave them a scrum on the Crusaders' 10-metre line and Cameron Phelps ran over, with Richards converting.

There were a couple of chances to increase the lead again but a handling error from Lincoln Withers gave possession back to Wigan. Centre Martin Gleeson then set up Amos Roberts, who ran over and the scores were level.

It was another Peter Lupton try that secured the win. He stormed over after the Crusaders the ball following a Paleaaesina knock-on.

Stars come on board for Bridgend Athletic's forthcoming season

Following on from last year's successful campaign, the Athletic senior squad is once again looking to strengthen and continue the success into this coming season in Division One West.

Paul Yardley will once again head the coaching team of John Apsee as attack coach and ever present David Williams as forwards coordinator.

Paul Hearne remains in place as team manager for the First XV. Tony Griffiths again heads an experienced Second XV management team with Ian Holman and Andrew Morgan. Hooker, Simon Mustoe, will lead the team for the fifth successive season, and is closing in on the club record of seven successive seasons held by his predecessor Stuart Morris.

Stuart has once again made himself available for the new campaign.

An innovation for this season will see the introduction of specialist attached coaches to oversee additional coaching sessions. These will include Kevin Ellis of Celtic Crusaders (defence) Carl Yardley (fitness) Andrew Millward of Ospreys (scrummaging) and Rob Howley will take several handling and skill classes throughout pre-season.

Saturday morning speed and fitness sessions are already underway at Newbridge Fields running track with a 10am start and all are welcome. Preseason training starts, on Thursday, July 2, 6.30pm, Newbridge Fields.

On the playing front, all of last season's senior squad are remaining, which is a sign of the confidence and team spirit that the players are looking to carry forward to this new season.

The senior team will benefit from a number of last season's Welsh Youth Cup and Welsh League winners moving to the senior ranks.

Among those Michael Hathaway, Tom Morgan, Matthew Norman, Lewis Davies, Ben Howe and Nathan Holman already have senior games under their belts.

Another bonus for the club this coming season will see the return of old boys and former Welsh Under 18 caps brothers Rod and Johnny Jones from Bridgend. Their experience and playing ability will be an advantage to all.

Other players considering a return to the club are second row Kyle Coulter after a stint with English Two side Worthing, and full back Simon Evans from fellow League One side Corus.

Senior management are also talking to other well known players who have shown an interest in joining the club. These players will be announced shortly. We also have former Athletic players on dual registration from Aberavon and Pontypool.

The club is looking at next season's campaign with extreme optimism and self belief that not only can we consolidate, but remain a permanent fixture in Division One of the Swalec Leagues.

Youth coaches Anthony Woodward and Mark Watts, who guided the team to Welsh Youth Cup and League wins last season remain on board. With the newly formed Rags Youth side from last season, made up mainly of former under -16 players ready to become the nucleus of the new youth side, they should once again have a strong side and keep the conveyor belt of talent progressing to the senior side.

The Player-of-the-Year award night is being held at the Heronston Hotel on Friday, June 26. Some tickets priced at £10 still remain. **AB**

Michael is now on the Road to Wimbledon!

MICHAEL BARNETT, aged 14, of Llanblethian has won through the Road to Wimbledon under-14s tournament at Cowbridge Tennis Club to go forward to the county final

Mike won through three rounds over the half term school break to meet his friend and teammate Sean Boga Lake, from Llantrisant, in an exciting final watched by family and friends.

Both Mike and Sean will represent the club at the county final in July.

The club tournament was the first stage of the 'Road to Wimbledon Challenge.'

Players aged 14 and under from clubs throughout south Wales meet at the finals, where the winner will go on to play at the All England Lawn Tennis Club in a national final.

Good luck to Mike and Sean.

A newly formed ladder competition is about to kick off – thank you to Allan Duggan for helping Judith and Steve to set this up.

The Summer Camps will commence in the weeks beginning July 20, July 27, August 3, and August 10.

For all junior enquiries please telephone Judith Hales on 01446 775626 or 078999 24730.

Under-13s look back on fine year

ONCE again this season, Bridgend Athletic under-13s have continued to go from strength to strength.

Despite lacking in physical size they have more than matched their opponents with their true grit and will to win. A big thank you to all the boys for a very successful season, once again culminating in a victory in the Ospreys Shield against Mumbles.

Statistics: Played 22, won 18, drawn 0, lost 4. Points for 846, points against 179. Tries scored 136.

At the end of season presentation ceremony, the following boys were the recipients of the awards:

Most improved Player of the Year – Ben Cording; clubman of the year – Ieuan Potts; parents player of the year – Lewis Dunlop; players player of the year – Morgan Coates; player of the year – Josh Evans.

Josh Evans also received a trophy for the highest points scorer with an amazing 51 tries.

However, all the boys were winners on the evening for equally contributing to such a successful season. All involved with the team now look forward to next season and under-14s.

This will see the boys participating in full pathway rules including lifting in the line-out and pushing in the scrum.

ATHLETIC UNDER-14s

BRIDGEND Athletic under-142s, start training for next season on Thursday, July 2, and every Thursday thereafter at Newbridge Fields, Bridgend from 6pm-7.30pm.

For more information, contact either Ian on 07880 788008 or Stuart on 07779 727881.

Vale trainers chasing the glory at Ffos Las

ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

LLANCARFAN'S Evan Williams and Aberthin's Tim Vaughan have both been in cracking form of late sending out winners up and down the country.

But which one of them will be the first Vale trainer to saddle a winner at the first new turf racecourse to open in Britain for more than 80 years?

The race is on and horses from across Britain and Ireland are heading for the opening fixture tonight (Thursday, June 18).

Around 250 horses have been entered for the seven races at Ffos Las Racecourse in Carmarthenshire, west Wales, today which is already a 10,000 sell-out crowd.

And there is the prospect that the very first race could be won by a horse owned by the man who developed the racecourse.

Champion Jockey Tony McCoy has been booked to ride Dai Walters's Ffos Las Diamond in the freebets.co.uk "National Hunt' Novices' Hurdle.

Welsh trainers have supported the races in huge numbers.

For example, well over half the 33 horses entered for the inaugural race are trained in Wales.

The ferries between Ireland and west Wales will also be busy with horse transportation judging by the number of entries from Irish stables.

The maximum number of runners is 16 in novice races and 18 in open ones.

Ffos Las Racecourse's Clerk of the Course Tim Long said: "We're absolutely thrilled with these entries. Trainers from Wales, England and Ireland have supported us in big numbers."

He reported that the track would continue to be watered until today to provide the very best possible racing conditions for the horses.

With all tickets having been sold for June 18, the racecourse stressed that no one should come without a ticket because there will be no cash admission on the night.

Tony's long hobble (on crutches) for charity

THE Celtic Crusaders' star fullback Tony Duggan is putting months in rehabilitation from long term injury to good use.

On Saturday, July 4, Duggan will be hobbling a three-mile walk on crutches to raise funds for Tenovus, the Welsh-based cancer charity.

Duggan, a star for the Crusaders in their first three years of existence, scored his 100th try for the club in just his second Super League game, against Salford City Reds in February.

After playing just five times in Super League, he was struck with a serious ankle injury which will see him out of action for most, if not all of the season. But injury hasn't stopped him from helping Wales's largest cancer charity.

Duggan will be starting his walk from the Bridgend Designer Outlet (formerly McArthur Glen). He will then head through local villages, finally ending up at the Brewery Field just before the 6pm kick off to the engage Super League game between the Crusaders and Warrington Wolves.

He will be covering just over three miles on his crutches, with each step making a difference to people being affected by cancer.

"It's been very disappointing to be out of the team for so long due to my injury, so I'm pleased to do something for such a worthy cause," said Duggan. "I'm happy to be supporting Tenovus in this way and I hope that my walk will raise a lot of money to help the treatment of cancer in Wales.

"Please take the time out to sponsor me. You can go online at www.justgiving.com/celticcrusaders.

"Donating through Justgiving is quick, easy and totally secure. It's also the most efficient way to sponsor me: Tenovus gets your money faster and, if you're a taxpayer, Justgiving makes sure 25 per cent in Gift Aid, plus a three per cent supplement, are added to your donations)."

GEM Quiz League posers

HERE are your quiz questions for the week:

1) Which hymn, that later featured in the pop charts, was written by the English slave trader John Newton whose conversion to Christianity began after his ship survived an Atlantic storm in 1748?

2) Which area of London takes its name from the 1908 Anglo-French Exhibition that was held there?

3) Which Swedish golfer won the 2008 European Order of Merit?

4) Which actor played Scaramanga, *The Man with the Golden Gun*?

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QUIZ ANSWERS:
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2. White City
3. Robert Karlsson.
4. Christopher Lee.

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